YUKITO KISHIRO
Battle Angel
ALITA
Last Order
VOL. 3
OMNIBUS

Battle Angel ALITA Last Order

STORY & ART BY YUKITO KISHIRO

OUTLINE

The Future. The development of cyborg technology cheapened human life. The sky city Tiphares dominated life on the surface, and directly beneath it, built on the trash it threw away, was a unique community called the Scrapyard. Amidst a tumultuous city full of crime, people struggled to survive.

It was there that Ido, a cybernetic doctor in the Scrapyard, found the head of a cyborg several hundred years old in a pile of rubble. Miraculously resurrected, the girl was named Alita. She had lost her memory, but her Flesh remembered the legendary martial art Panzer Kunst. With Ido by her side, she became a bounty hunter and started down the path to self-discovery.

But an incident caused by the genius Tipharean scientist known as Nova led to Ido's death. Alita herself was arrested as a criminal by the Tipharean organization G.I.B. She was then forced to become a TUNED, an agent of Tiphares, and began to hunt down Nova, who held the key to Ido's resurrection.

After ending the chaos of Tiphares, Alita and her associates travel to the space city Ketheres on a mission to recover the brain of Alita's dear friend, Lou. On the way, Alita experiences flashbacks of her past and is able to regain pieces of her memory, but as she reaches the inner-depths of Ketheres, Alita meets someone who knows about her past...

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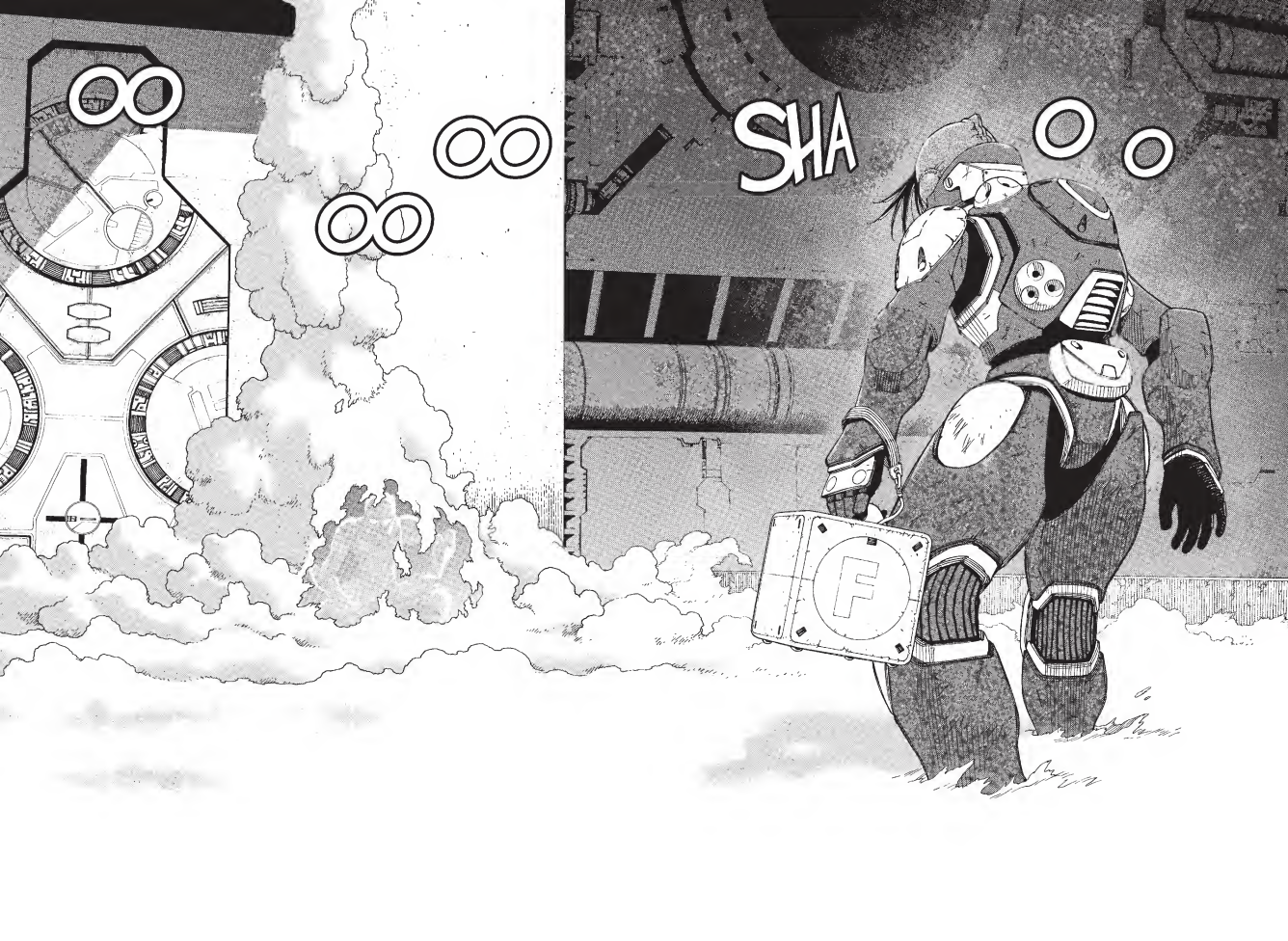
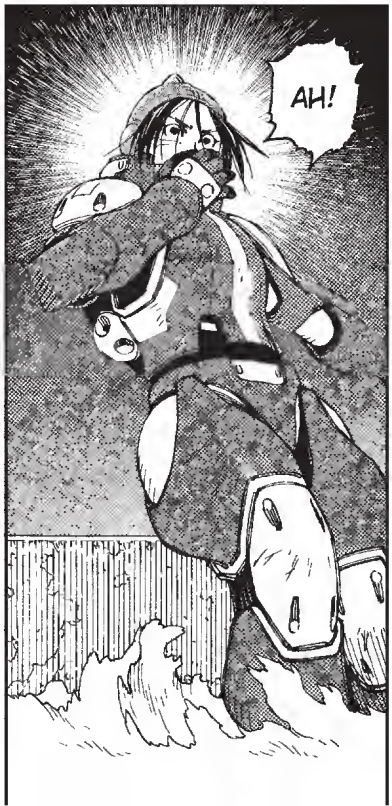
PHASE 38: I Am Yoko

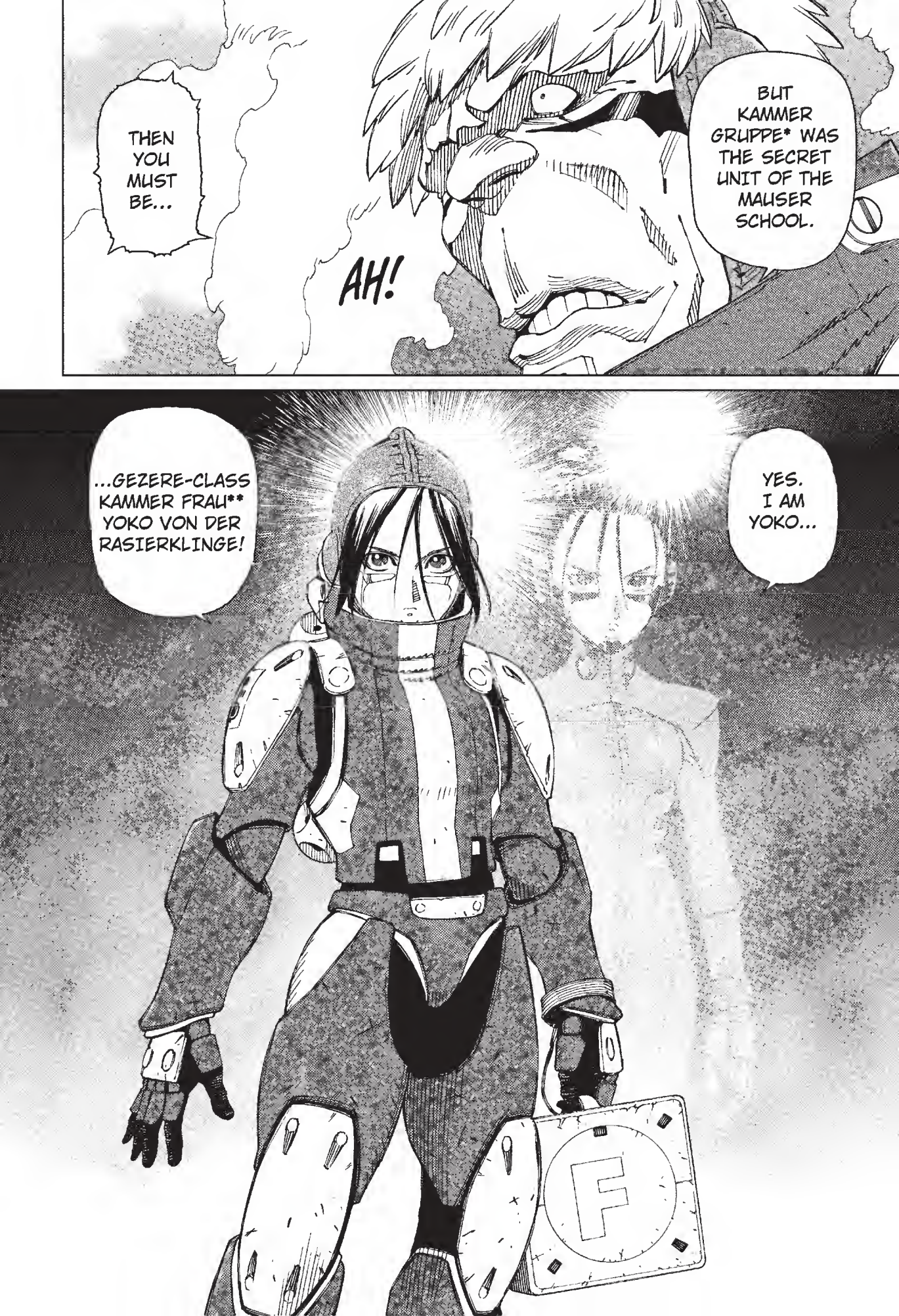

SHA

SHOULDN'T I BE GLAD TO SEE MY FORMER COMRADES?
WHY DO I FEEL SO ..DISGUSTED?!
T-TELL ME...ARE YOU FROM GRÜNTHAL, TOO?
INDEED, I AM.
HEH, HEH!
FWUP
AND AS A FELLOW KÜNTSLER, I WILL GRANT YOU THE HONOR OF SEEING MY FACE.
VMM

I AM TZYKROW DER RABE, A.K.A. "THE RAVEN"...
...FORMER HÖHER KRIEGER OF THE MAUSER SCHOOL OF PANZER KUNST.

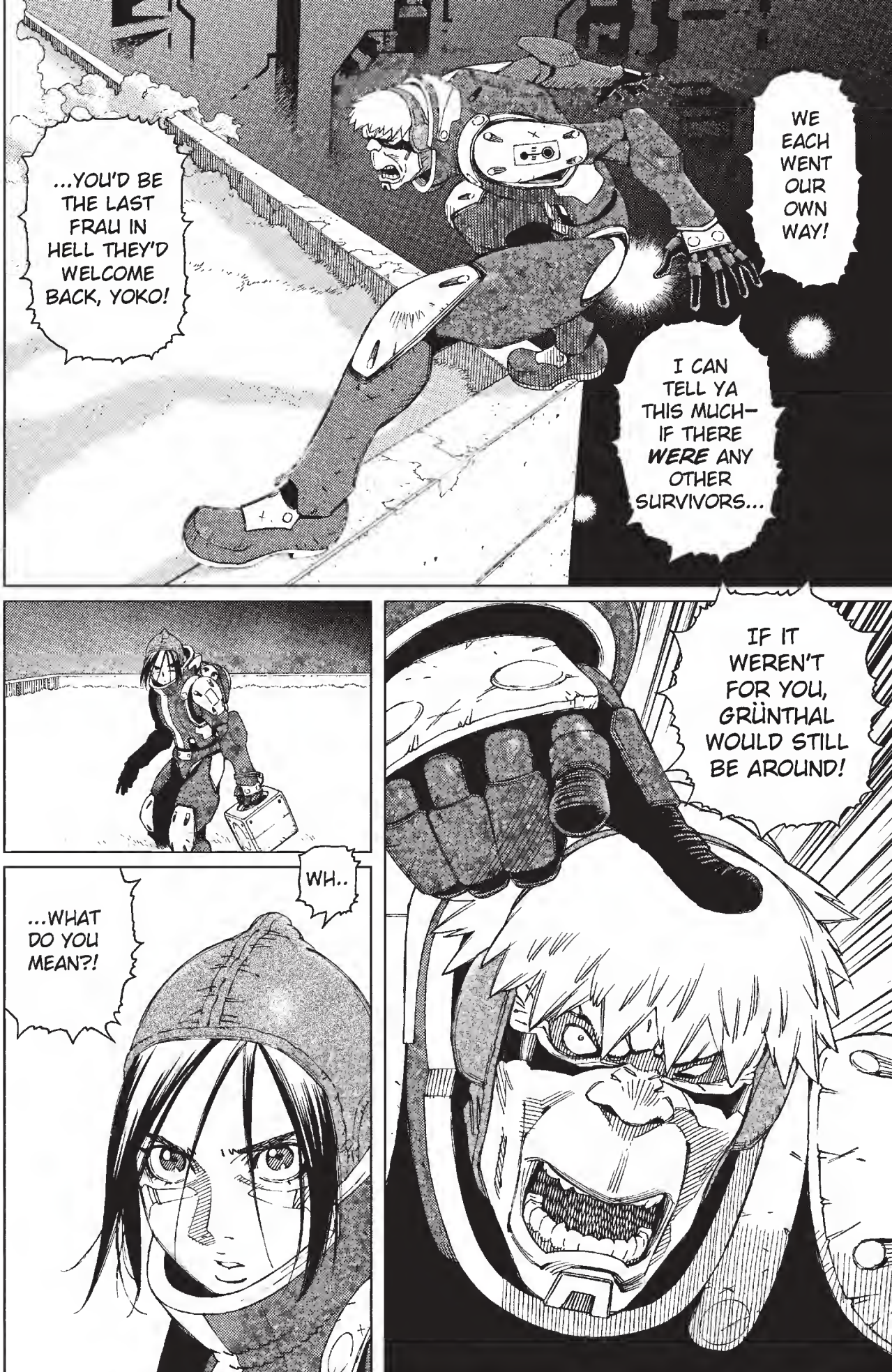
YES... NOW I KNOW YOU...
YOU TAUGHT THE *KAMMER GRUPPE*.
YOU WERE "TZYK THE BRUTE"!

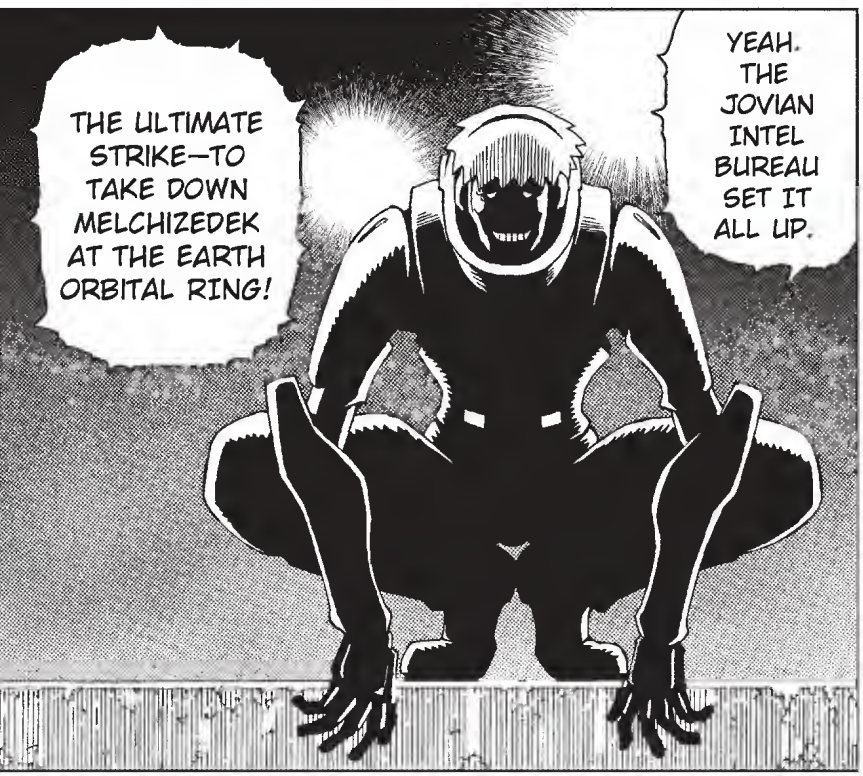

AH!

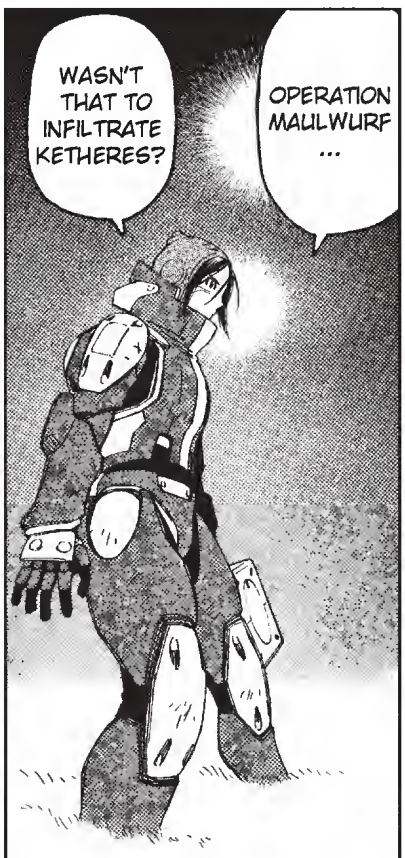

THEN YOU MUST BE...
AH!
BUT KAMMER GRUPPE* WAS THE SECRET UNIT OF THE MAUSER SCHOOL.
...GEZERE-CLASS KAMMER FRAU** YOKO VON DER RASIERKLINGE!
YES. I AM YOKO...
F

***Kammer Gruppe:** Unlike the Panzer Kunst combat troops, this group covertly performs assasinations, sabotage and other dirty jobs in secret. Officially, they are an organization that trains the armory guards.*

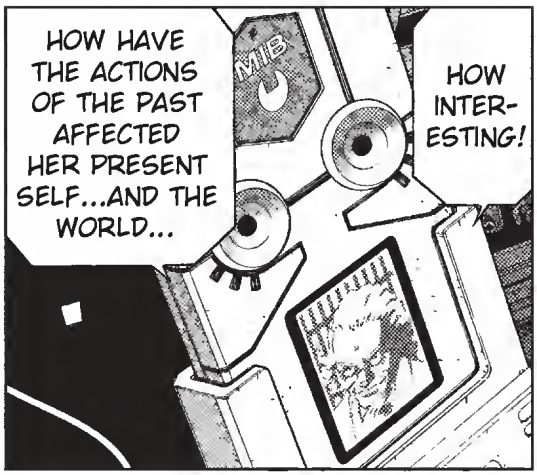
***Kammer Frau:** Literally, "Chamber Woman." The name given to the specially trained female members of the Kammer Gruppe.*

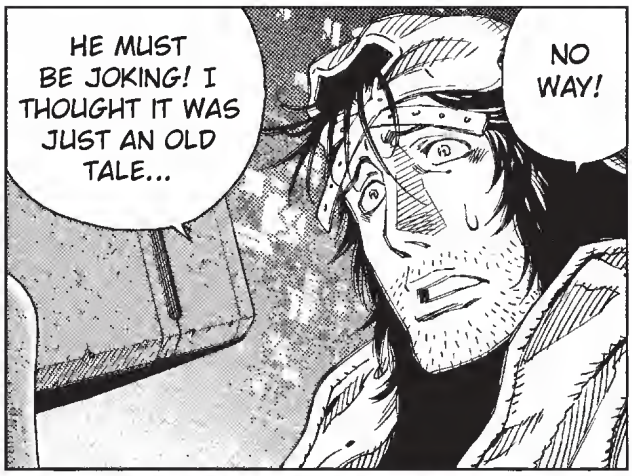

...YOU'D BE THE LAST FRAU IN HELL THEY'D WELCOME BACK, YOKO!
WE EACH WENT OUR OWN WAY!
I CAN TELL YA THIS MUCH— IF THERE *WERE* ANY OTHER SURVIVORS...
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, GRÜNTHAL WOULD STILL BE AROUND!
WH..
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

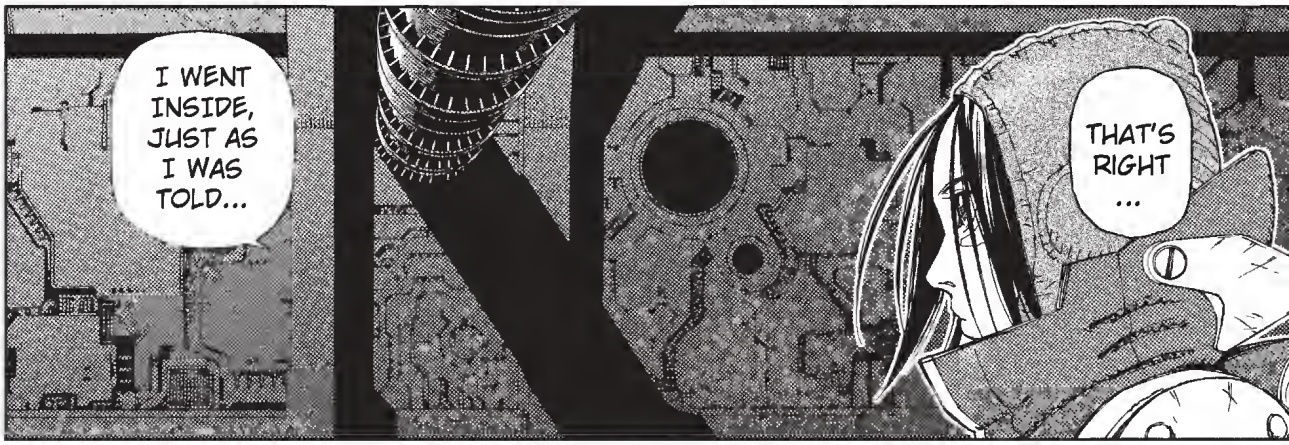


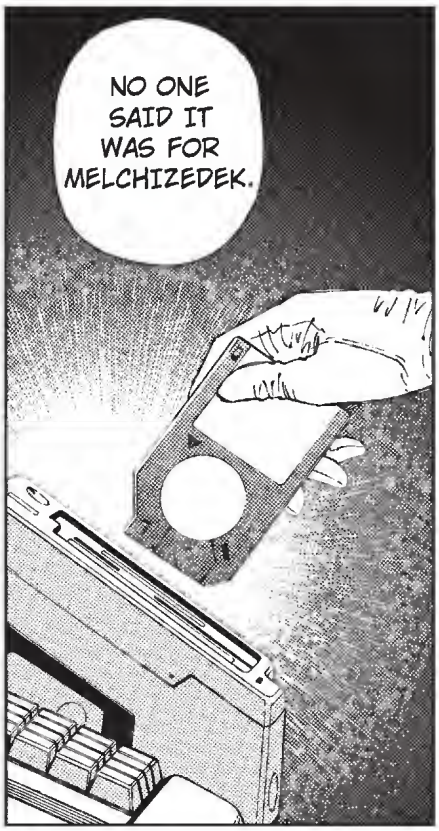


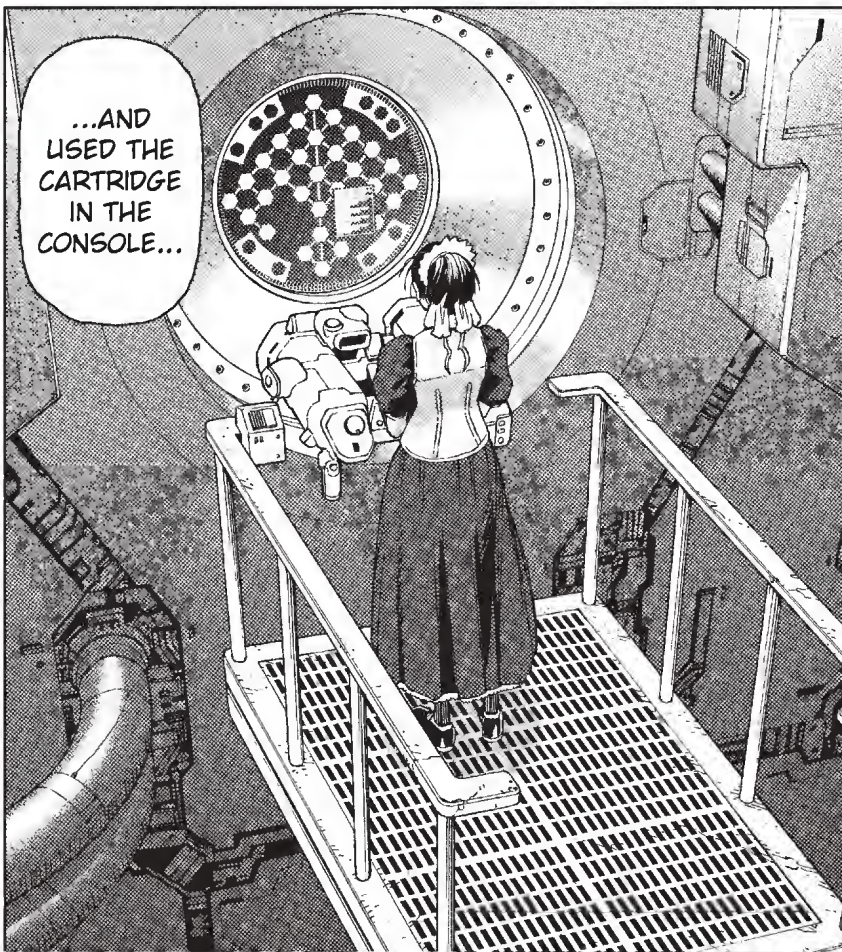
***Maulwurf:** German for "Mole".*

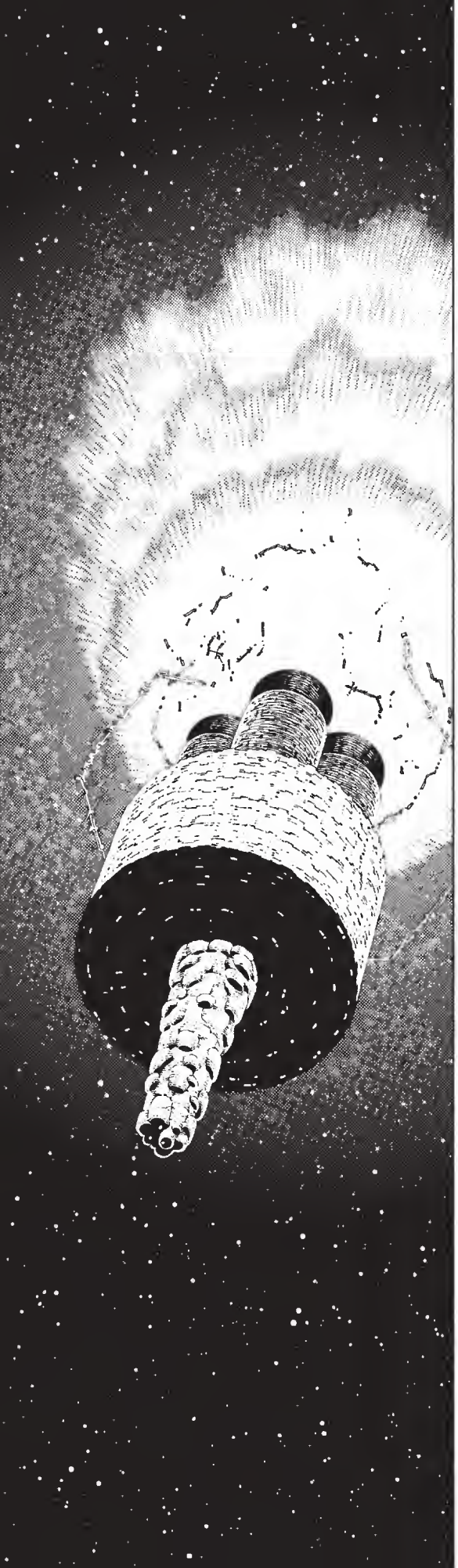

HOW HAVE THE ACTIONS OF THE PAST AFFECTED HER PRESENT SELF...AND THE WORLD...
HOW INTER-ESTING!

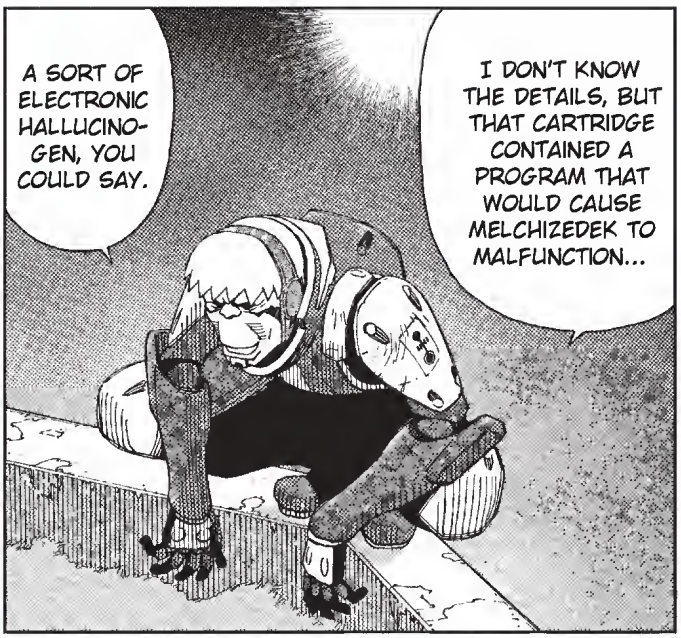

HE MUST BE JOKING! I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST AN OLD TALE...
NO WAY!

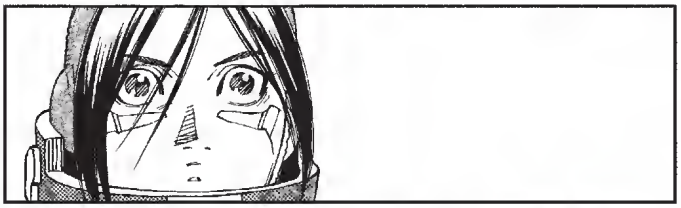

I WENT INSIDE, JUST AS I WAS TOLD...
THAT'S RIGHT ...

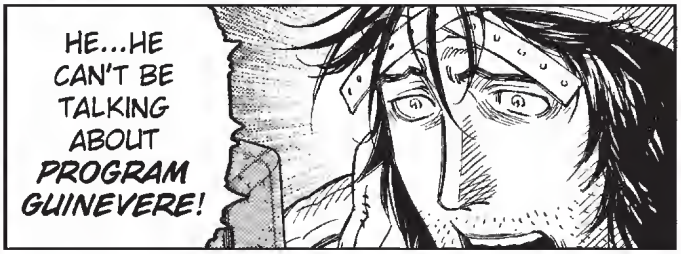

NO ONE SAID IT WAS FOR MELCHIZEDEK.

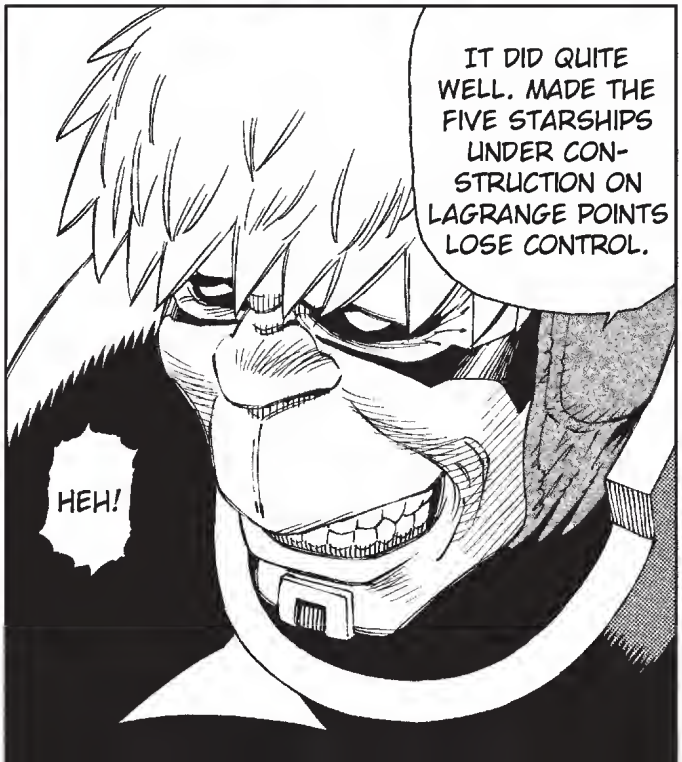

...AND USED THE CARTRIDGE IN THE CONSOLE...

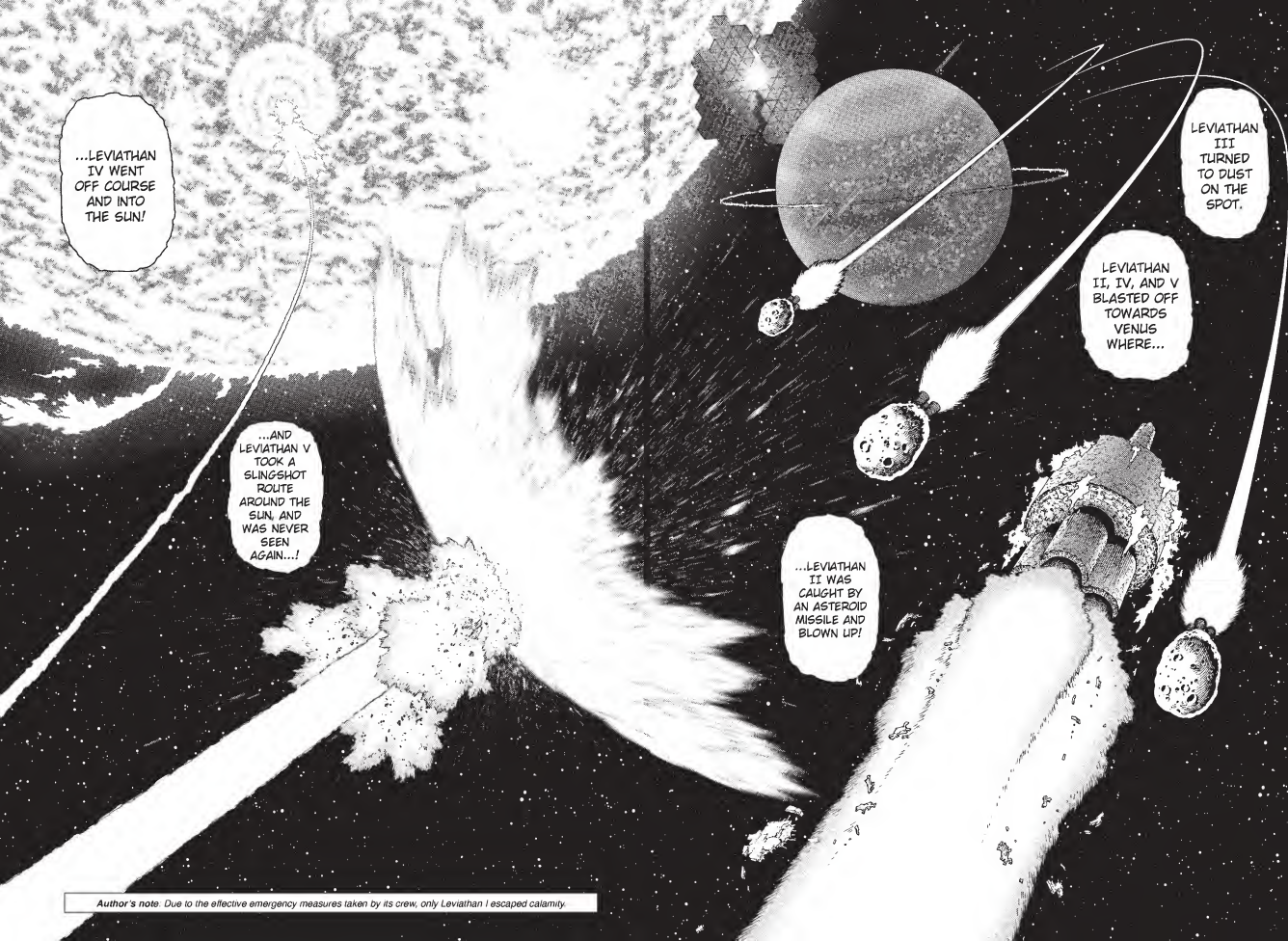


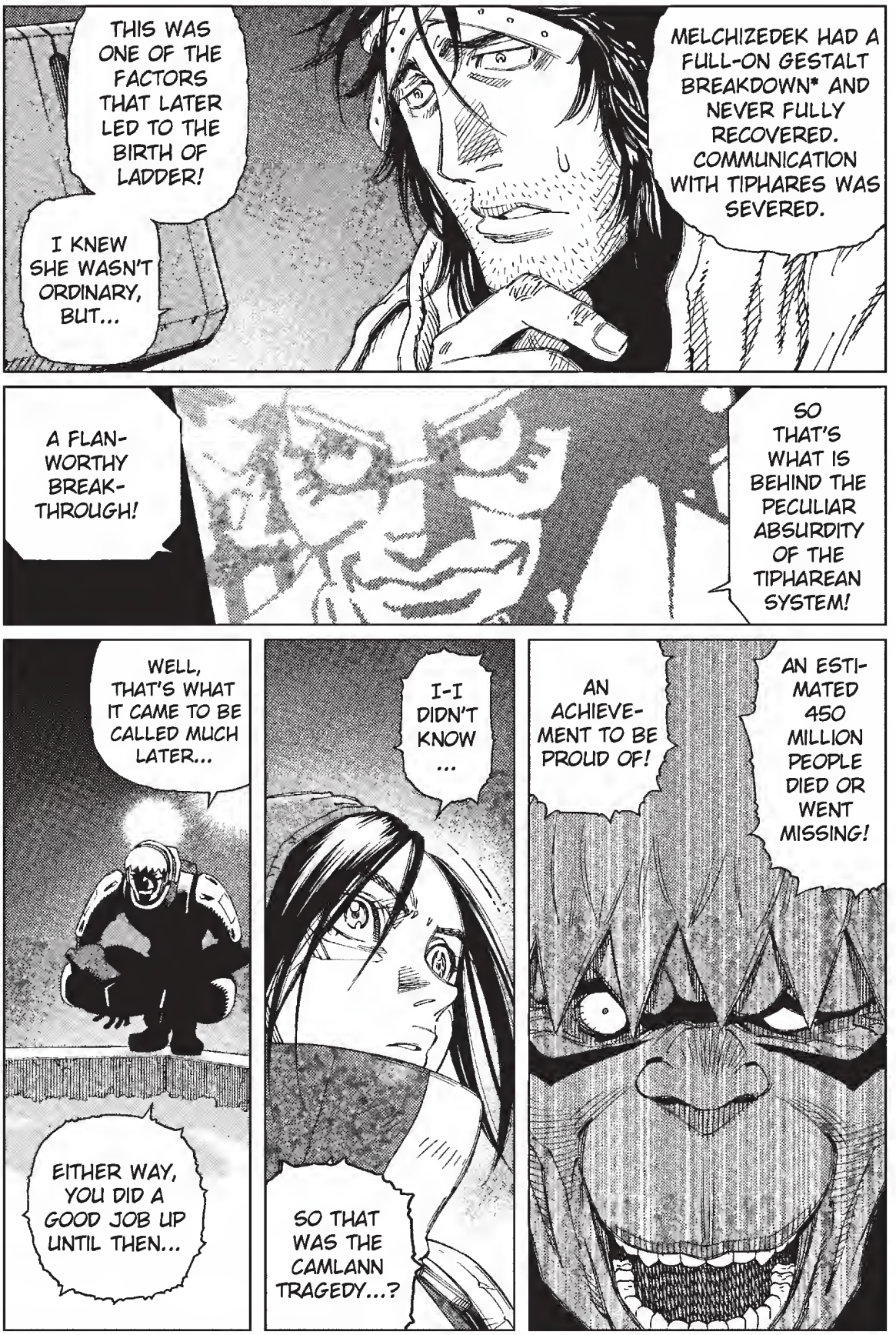

A SORT OF ELECTRONIC HALLUCINO-GEN, YOU COULD SAY.
I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS, BUT THAT CARTRIDGE CONTAINED A PROGRAM THAT WOULD CAUSE MELCHIZEDEK TO MALFUNCTION...




HE...HE CAN'T BE TALKING ABOUT *PROGRAM GUINEVERE!*


IT DID QUITE WELL. MADE THE FIVE STARSHIPS UNDER CON-STRUCTION ON LAGRANGE POINTS LOSE CONTROL.
HEH!


...LEVIATHAN IV WENT OFF COURSE AND INTO THE SUN!
...AND LEVIATHAN V TOOK A SLINGSHOT ROUTE AROUND THE SUN, AND WAS NEVER SEEN AGAIN...!
...LEVIATHAN II WAS CAUGHT BY AN ASTEROID MISSILE AND BLOWN UP!
LEVIATHAN II, IV, AND V BLASTED OFF TOWARDS VENUS WHERE...
LEVIATHAN III TURNED TO DUST ON THE SPOT.
Author's note: Due to the effective emergency measures taken by its crew, only Leviathan I escaped calamity.

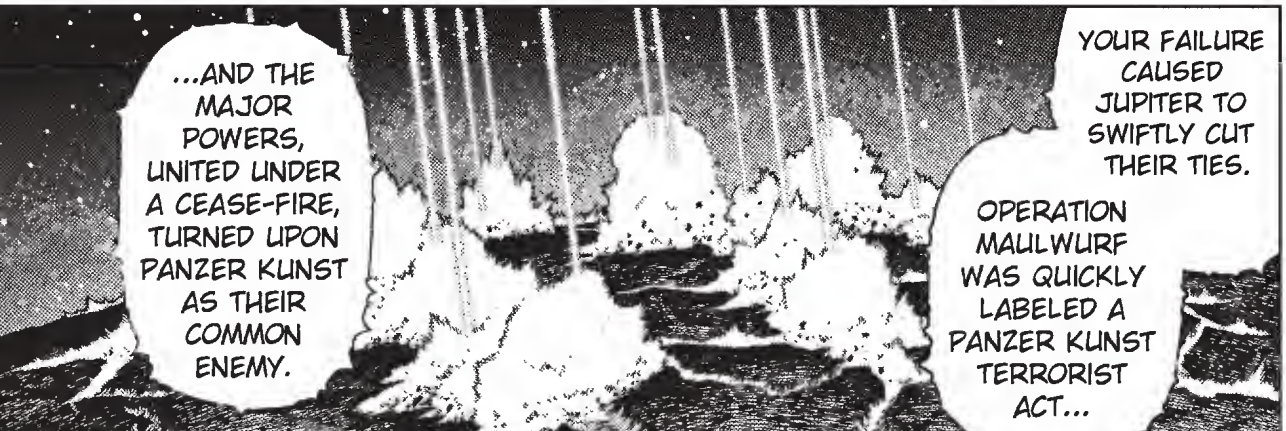


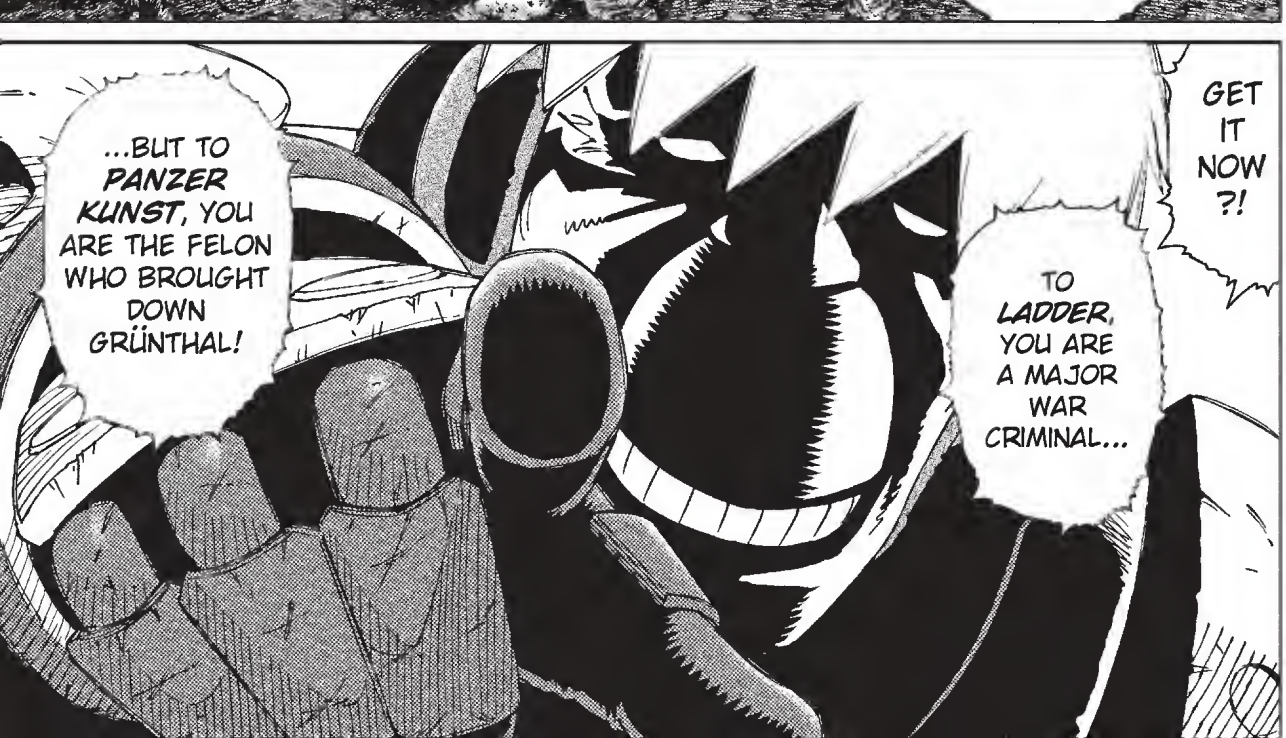
***Gestalt breakdown:** A term found in Gestalt psychology that signfies the loss of uniformity or totality. To give an easy example, if you momentarily keep your attention on something that should be a familiar sight, such as text, it may then begin to appear as a mass of meaningless lines. This is an example of Gestalt breakdown.*

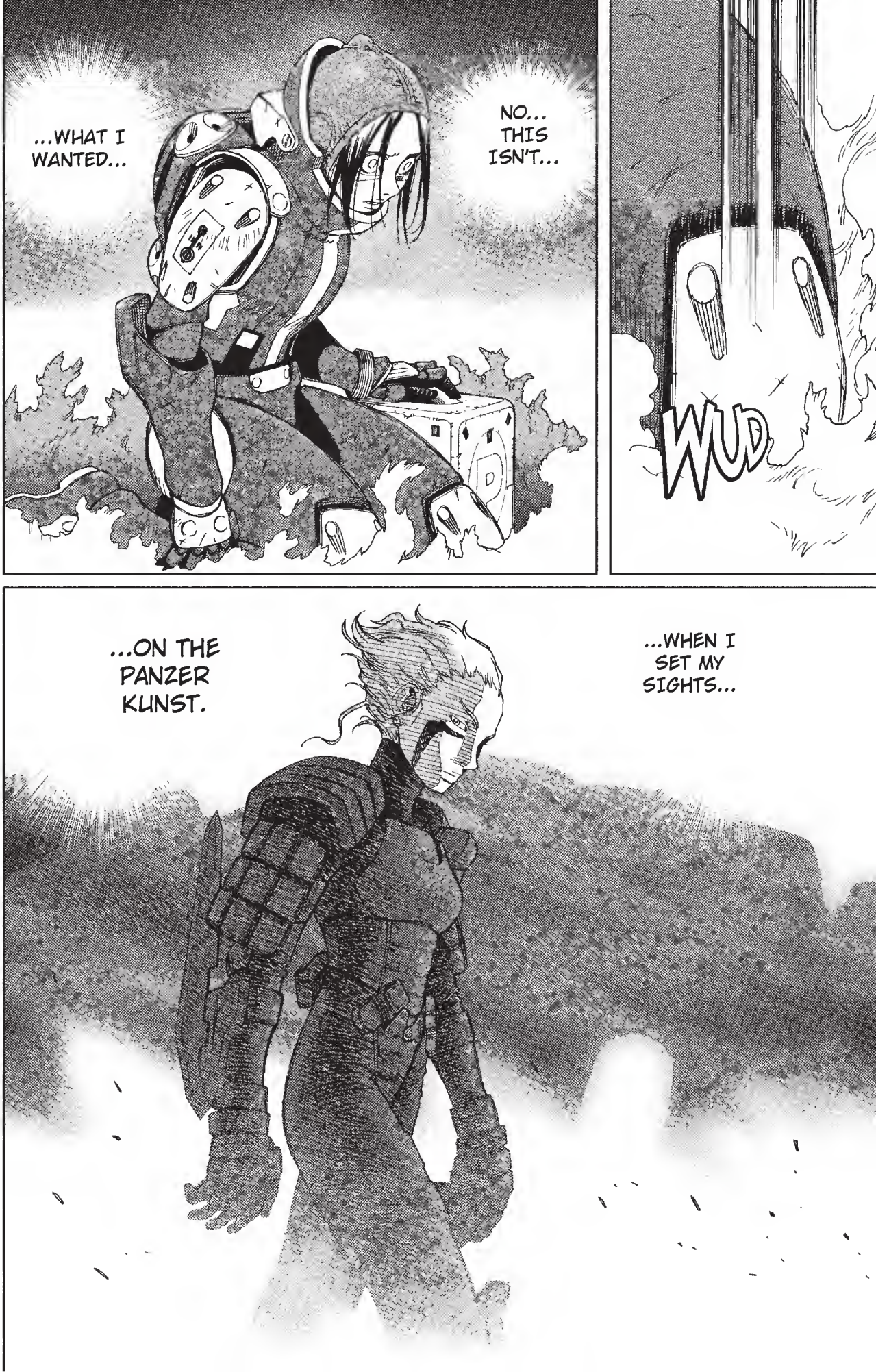
WHEN I WAS DEFEATED AND CAPTURED ALIVE AFTER ENCOUNTERING CAERULA?
BUT...
...THEN YOU MADE A MAJOR BLUNDER AT THE VERY END!
...IT WAS BY FAR THE BIGGEST MISTAKE YOU EVER MADE.
I DON'T KNOW WHY SHE WAS OUT THERE, BUT...
SHE WAS A FREE AGENT CALLED THE "BLUE WIDOW" AT THE TIME.
USELESS! DIDN'T I TEACH YOU THE FINAL TECHNIQUE FOR THAT EXACT SITUATION?
BUT MY ONLY CHOICE WAS TO OPEN A LINE OF RETREAT!
SOMEONE LIKE YOU DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST CAERULA!
YOU JUST HAD TO FACE HER DOWN, DIDN'T YOU! IDIOT!

SELF DE-STRUCT!
THAT'S IT!
HEH, HEH!
!!

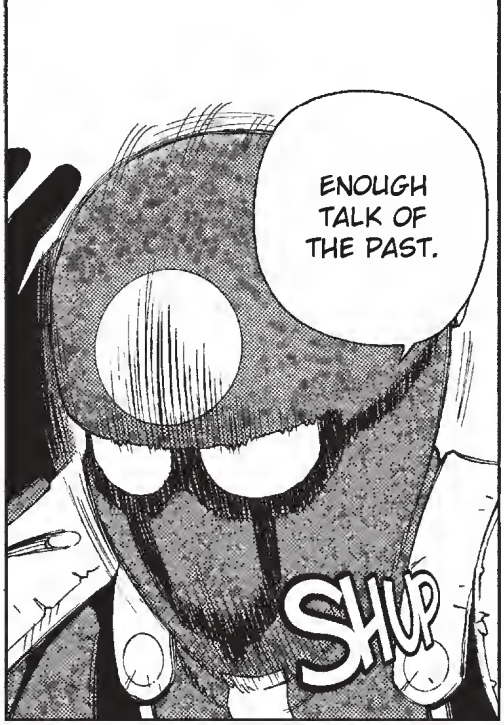
FOR THE PLAN TO SUCCEED, THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN ERDE AND VENUS HAD TO FALL APART!
IT WOULD ALL BE RUINED IF ANY TRACES OF OUR HANDYWORK REMAINED.
WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN, YOU COULDN'T DO IT! JUST USELESS!

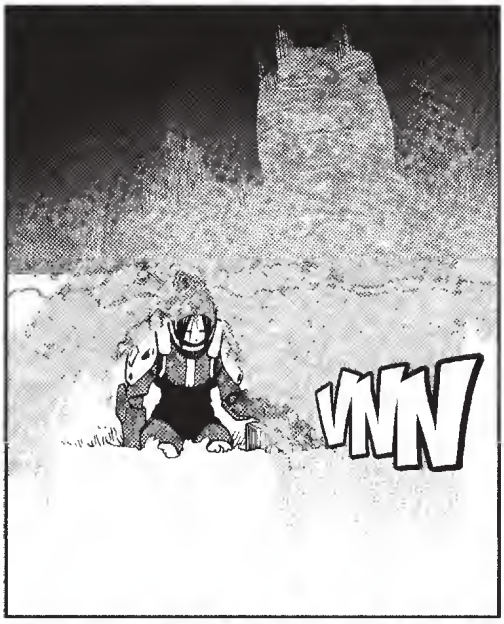

...AND THE MAJOR POWERS, UNITED UNDER A CEASE-FIRE, TURNED UPON PANZER KUNST AS THEIR COMMON ENEMY.
YOUR FAILURE CAUSED JUPITER TO SWIFTLY CUT THEIR TIES.
OPERATION MAULWURF WAS QUICKLY LABELED A PANZER KUNST TERRORIST ACT...


...BUT TO ***PANZER KUNST***, YOU ARE THE FELON WHO BROUGHT DOWN GRÜNTHAL!
TO ***LADDER***, YOU ARE A MAJOR WAR CRIMINAL...
GET IT NOW ?!


...WHAT I WANTED...
NO... THIS ISN'T...
WUD
...ON THE PANZER KUNST.
...WHEN I SET MY SIGHTS...

THIS ISN'T WHY I TRIED SO HARD!


ENOUGH TALK OF THE PAST.
SHUP


VNN

BAM!

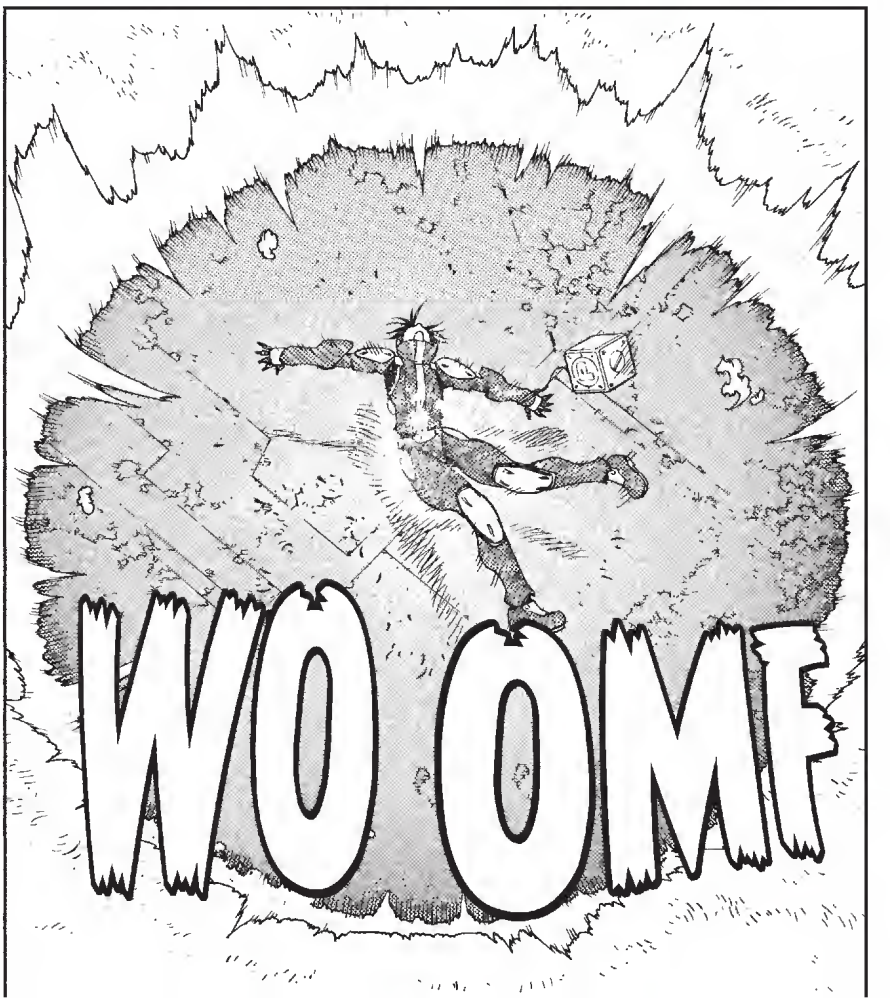
WHERE DID I... WHERE DID I GO WRONG?

UNH!
TUP
WHUD
FWAK
IT'S A DIF-FERENT AGE NOW.
FST
...I'M MAJOR TZYK OF THE HIGH ORDER SQUAD—UNDER TRINIDAD'S DIRECT COMMAND!
WHERE ARE YOU AIMING?
WIF!

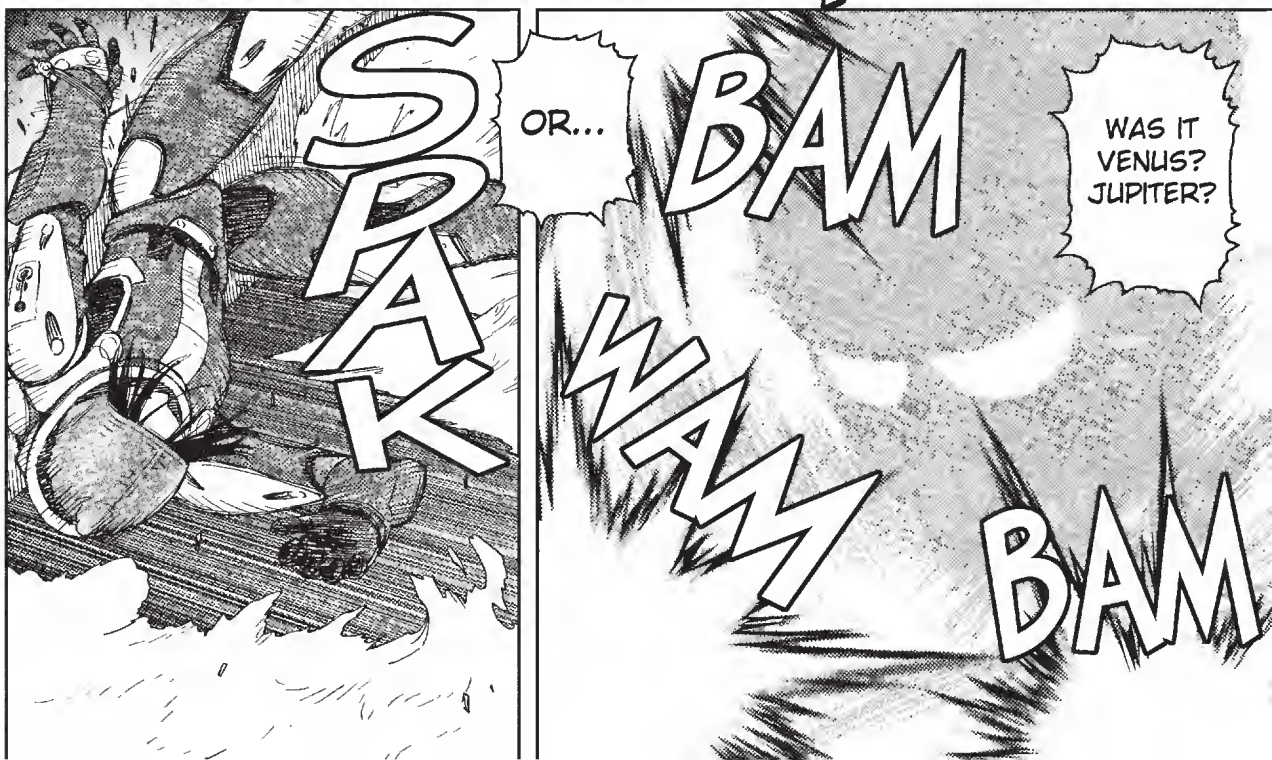
IT'S A GHOST SOUND SOURCE! DON'T LET IT CONFUSE YOU!
FWSH
JUST CALM DOWN!
GO INTO STEALTH MODE SO YOU CAN FIGHT ON THE SAME TERMS.
HFF!
UFF!
IT'S NOT HIDE AND SEEK IF THERE ARE TWO "ITS"!
SHE MAY HAVE THE TECH, BUT SHE'S HARDLY A MASTER OF IT!
AS IF THAT WILL HELP...
WOM!
SO I'M THE ONE...

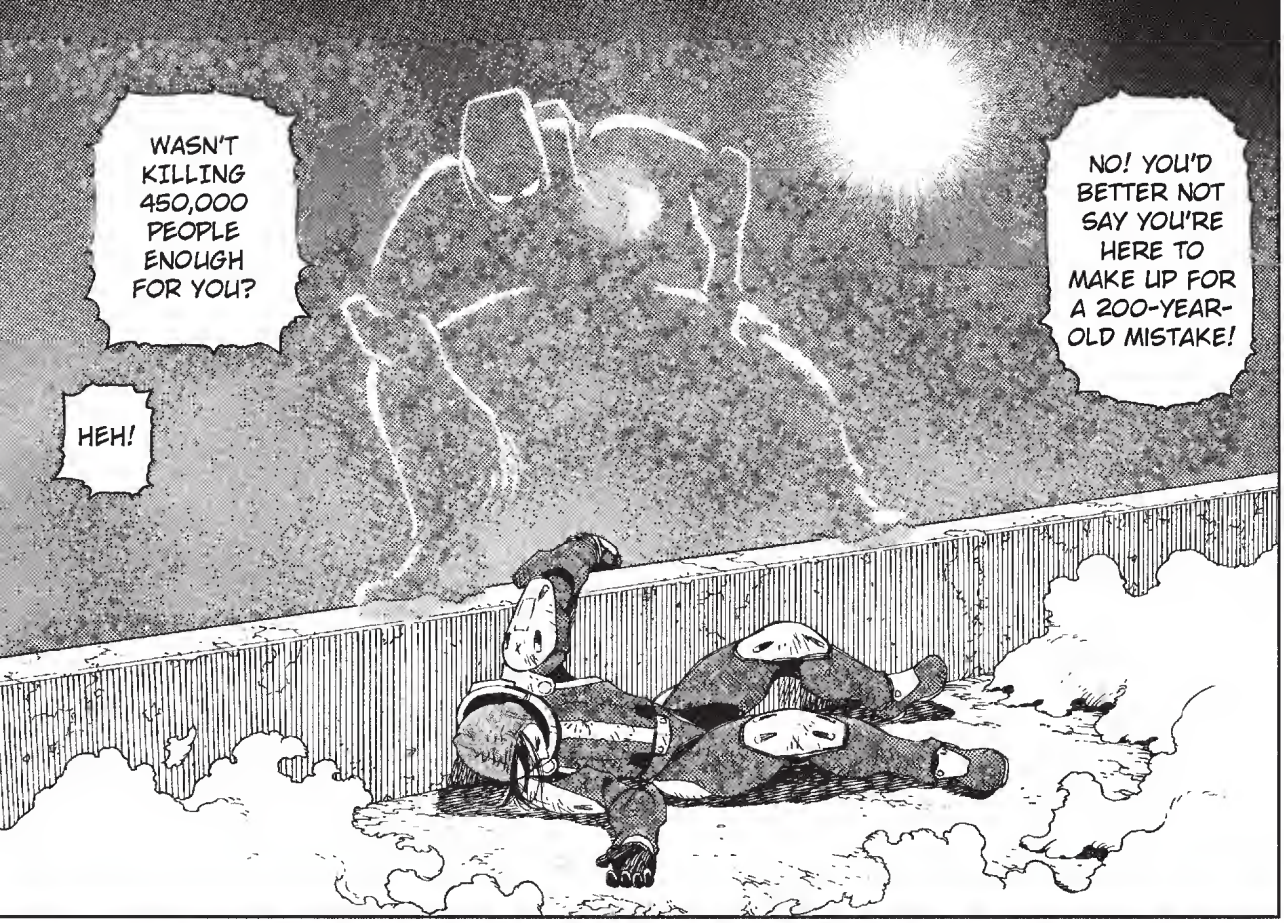
FWF

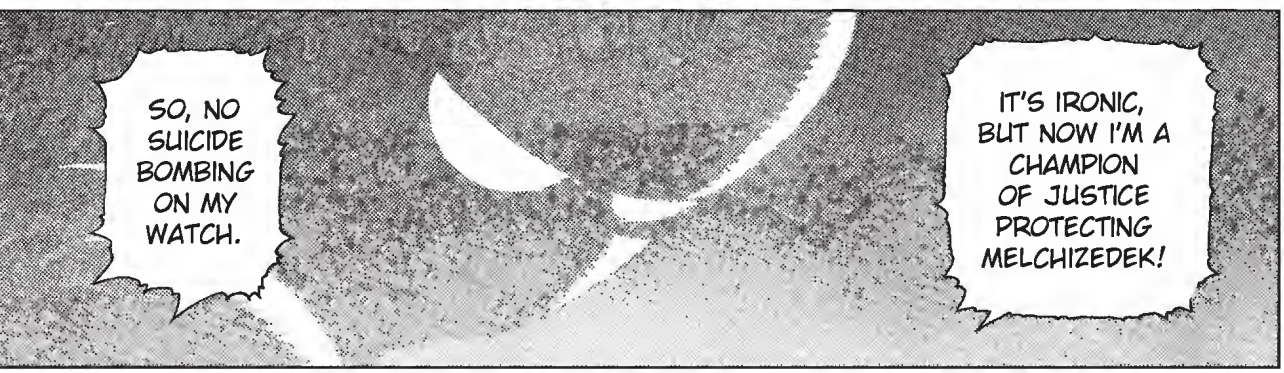
DAMN... HER STEALTH SWITCH IS BROKEN!

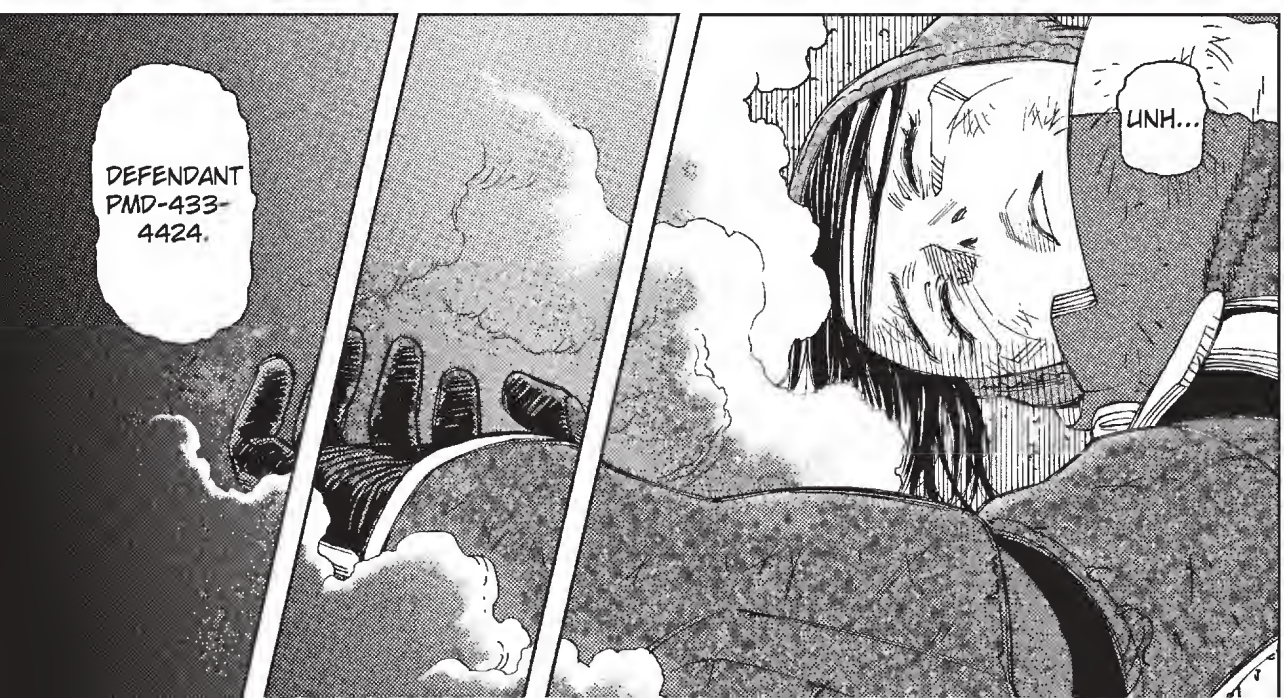

WO OMF

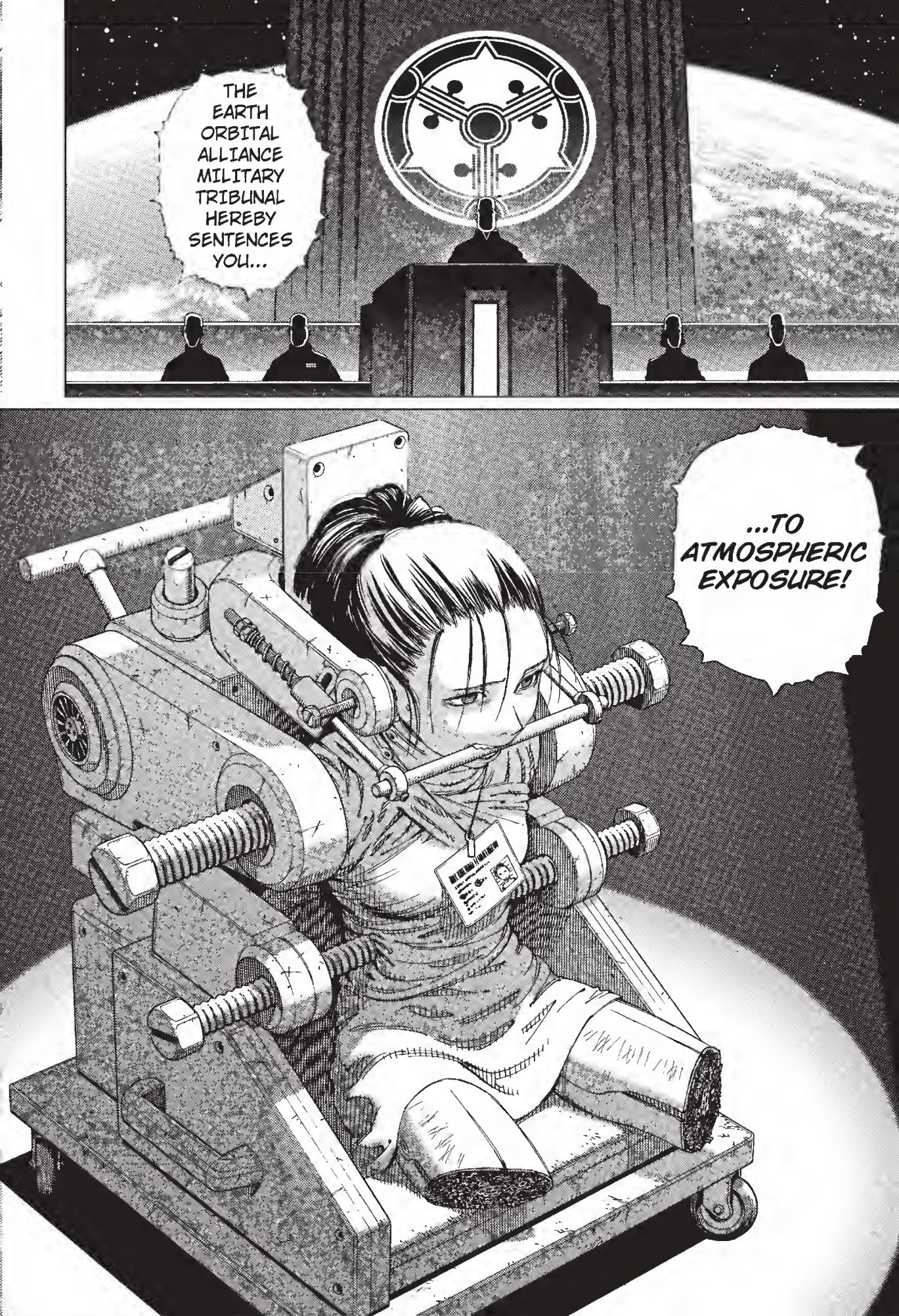
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
TELL ME!
WHO SENT YOU HERE THIS TIME?


SPAK
OR...
BAM
WAM
BAM
WAS IT VENUS? JUPITER?

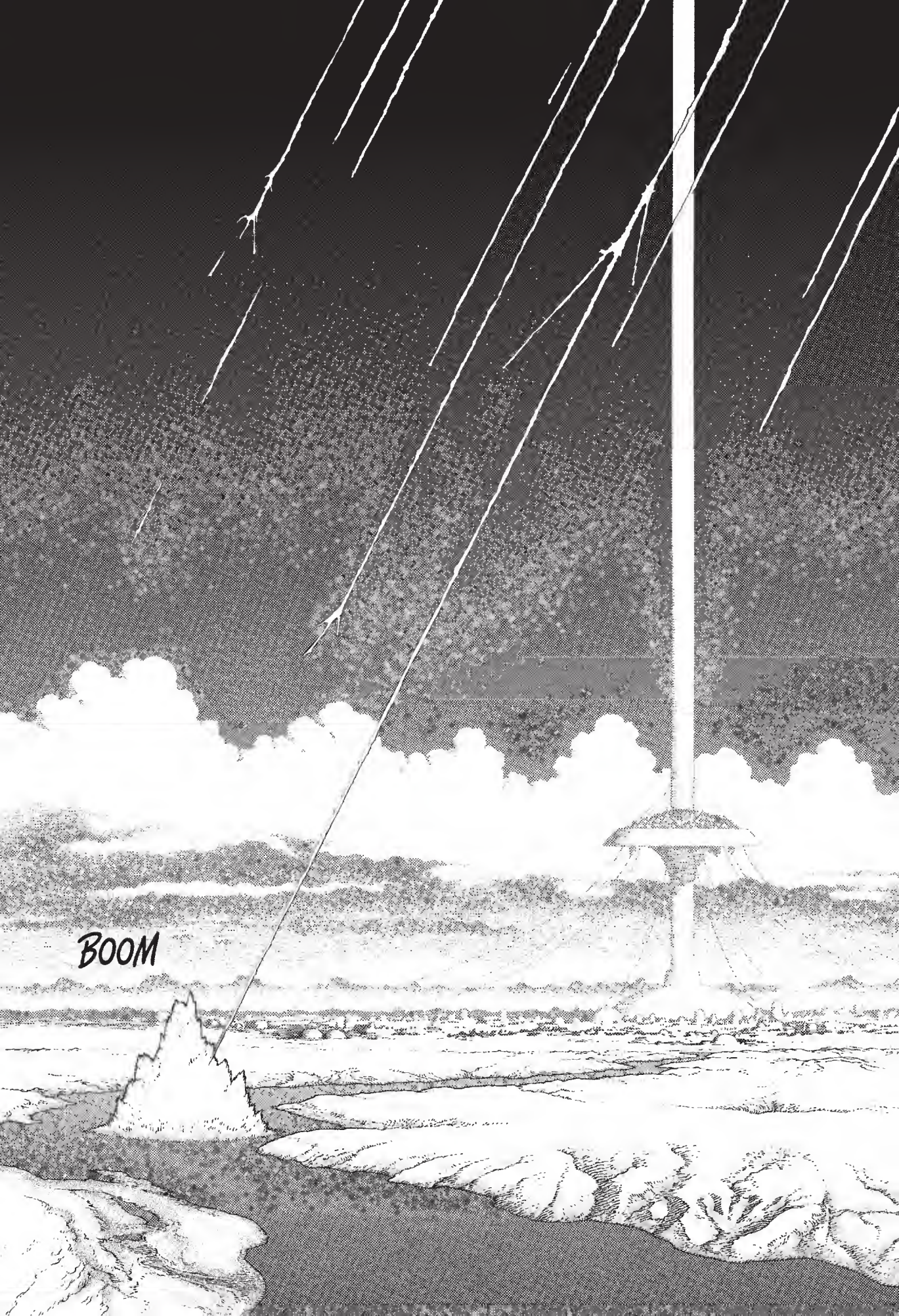

WASN'T KILLING 450,000 PEOPLE ENOUGH FOR YOU?
HEH!
NO! YOU'D BETTER NOT SAY YOU'RE HERE TO MAKE UP FOR A 200-YEAR-OLD MISTAKE!

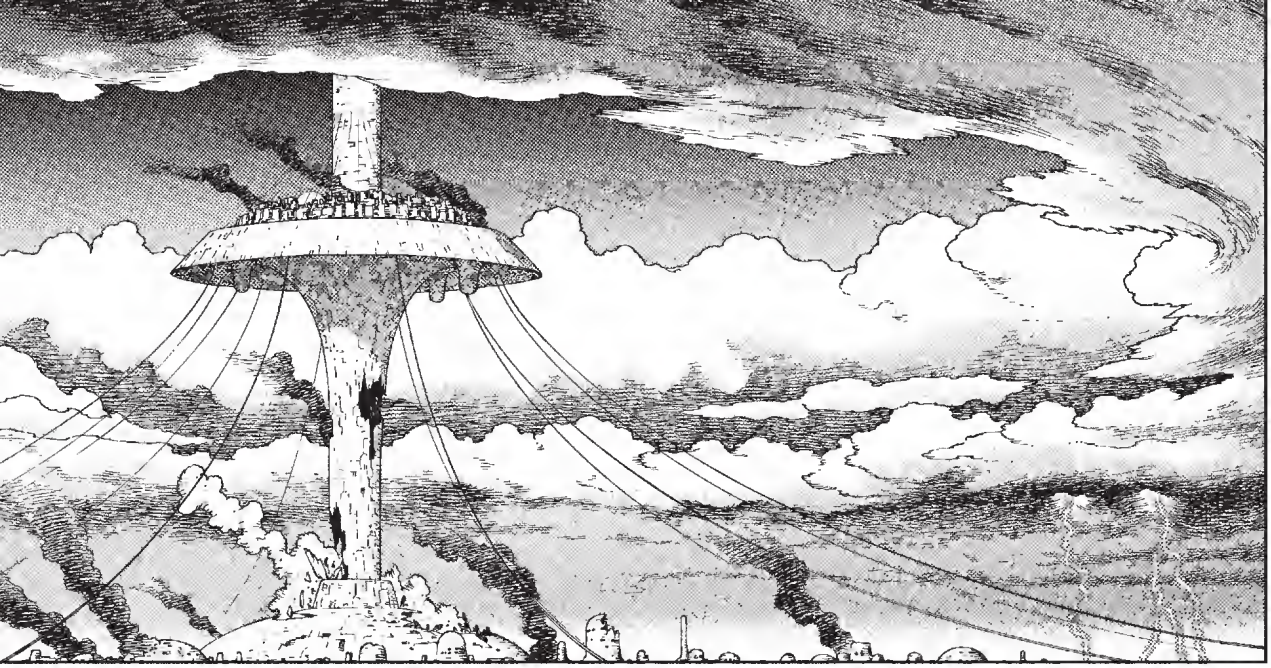

SO, NO SUICIDE BOMBING ON MY WATCH.
IT'S IRONIC, BUT NOW I'M A CHAMPION OF JUSTICE PROTECTING MELCHIZEDEK!

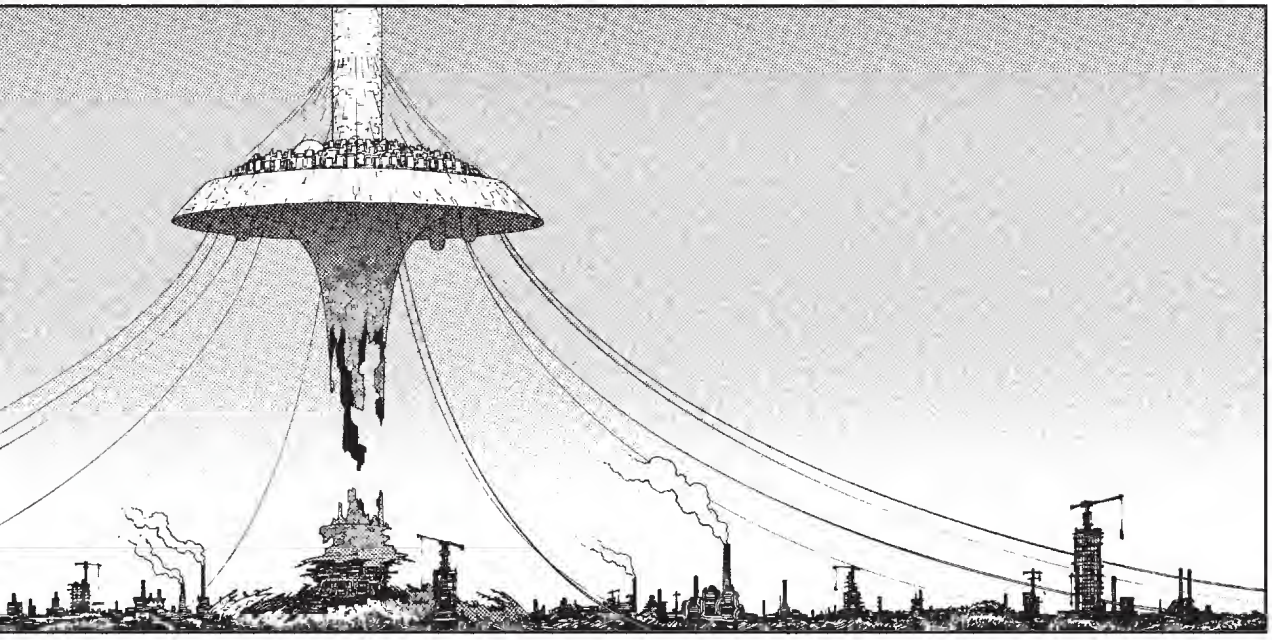

DEFENDANT PMD-433-4424.
UNH...

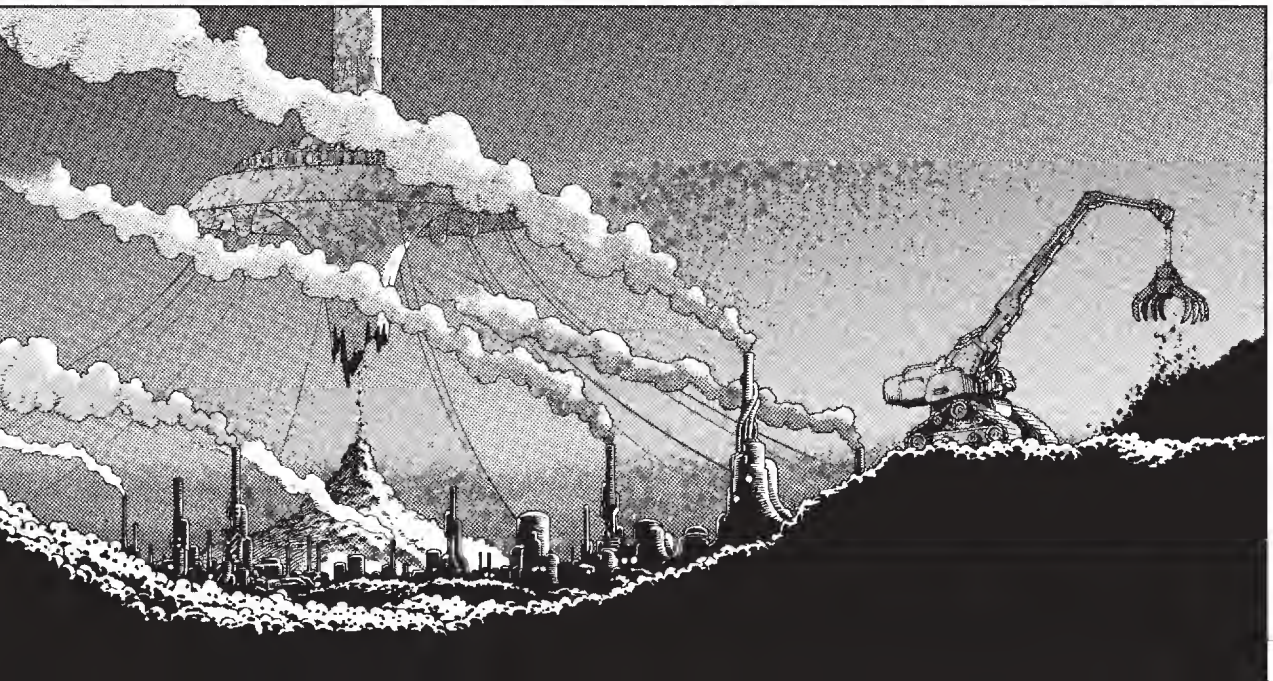

THE EARTH ORBITAL ALLIANCE MILITARY TRIBUNAL HEREBY SENTENCES YOU...
...TO ATMOSPHERIC EXPOSURE!

FOOSH


BOOM

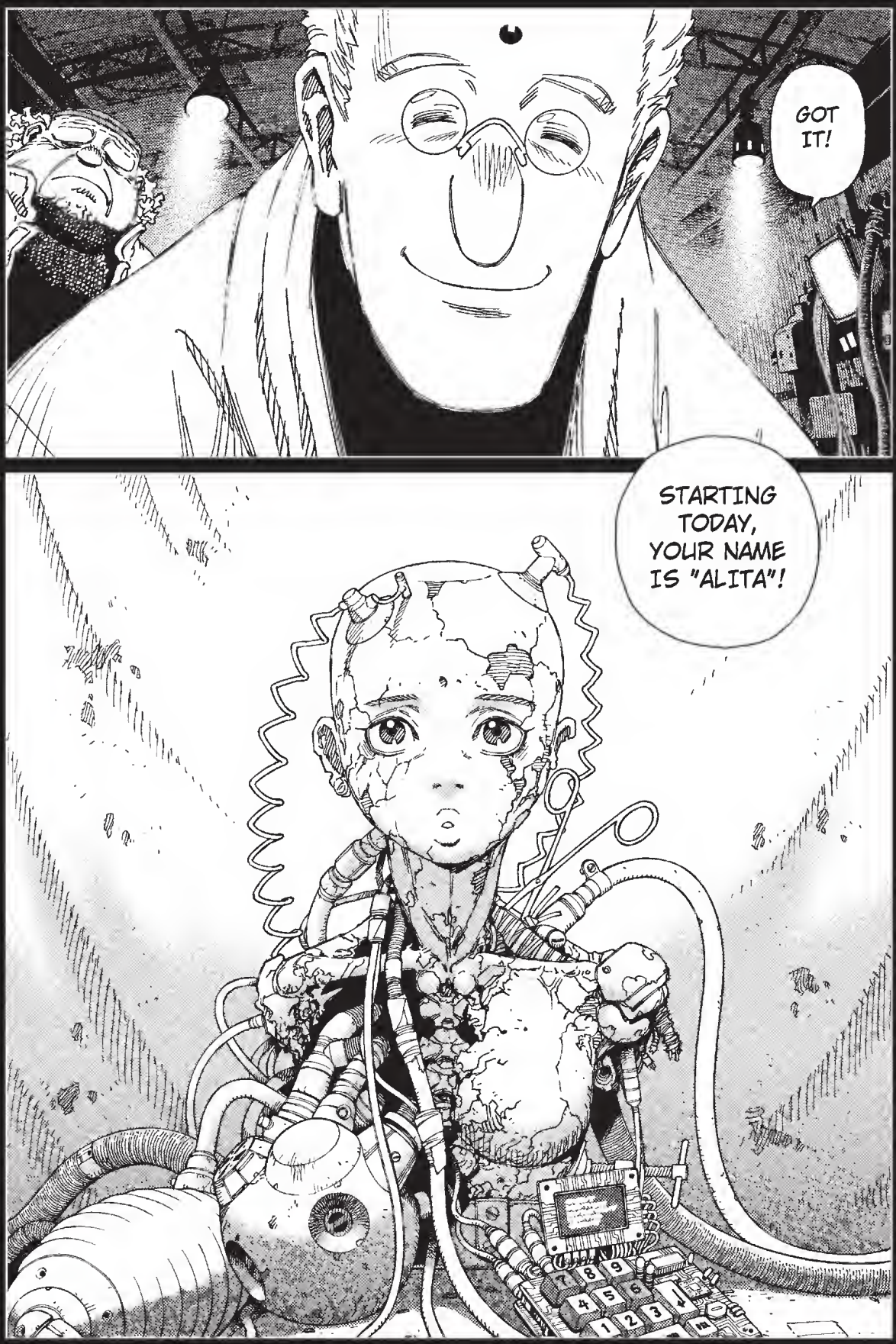


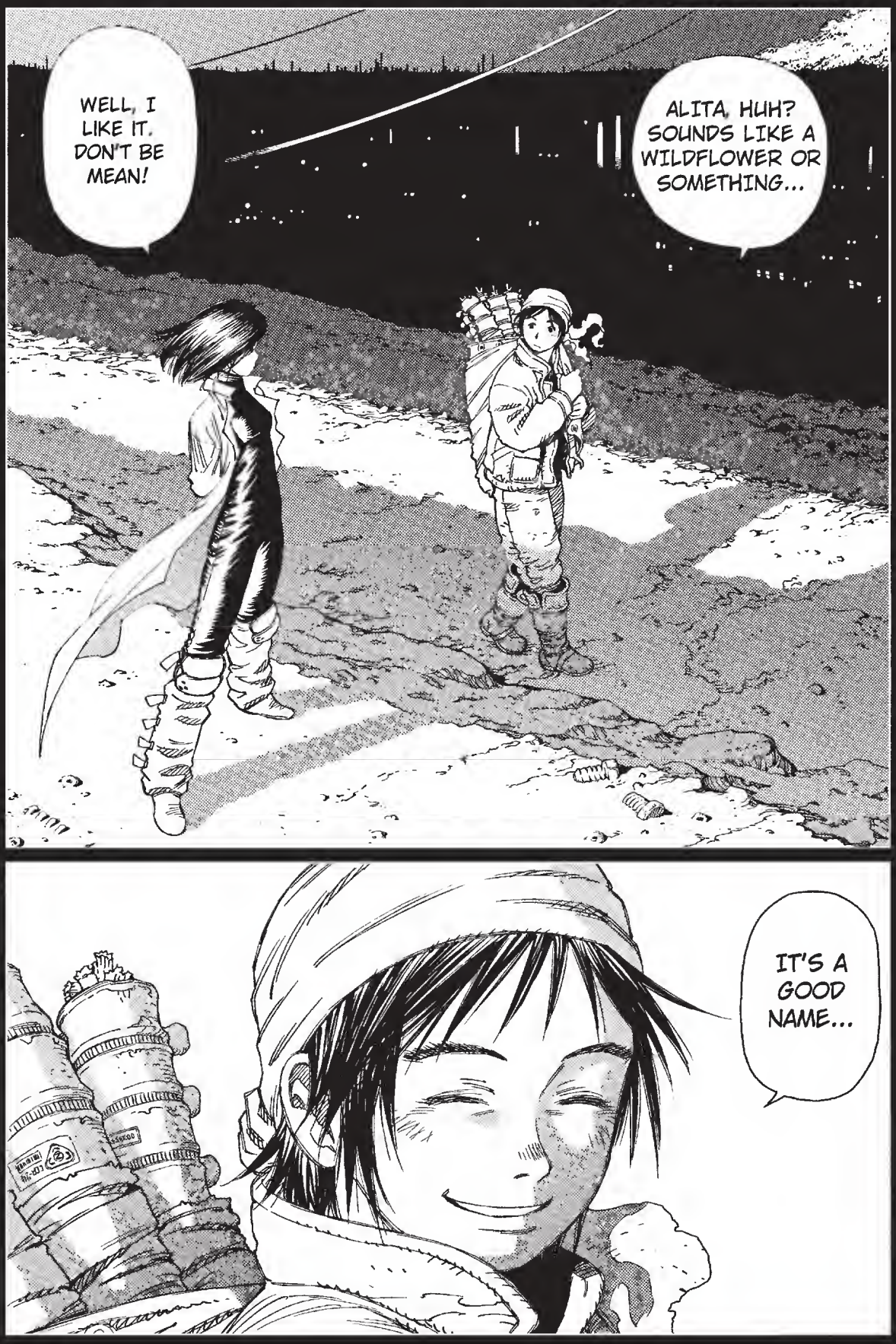


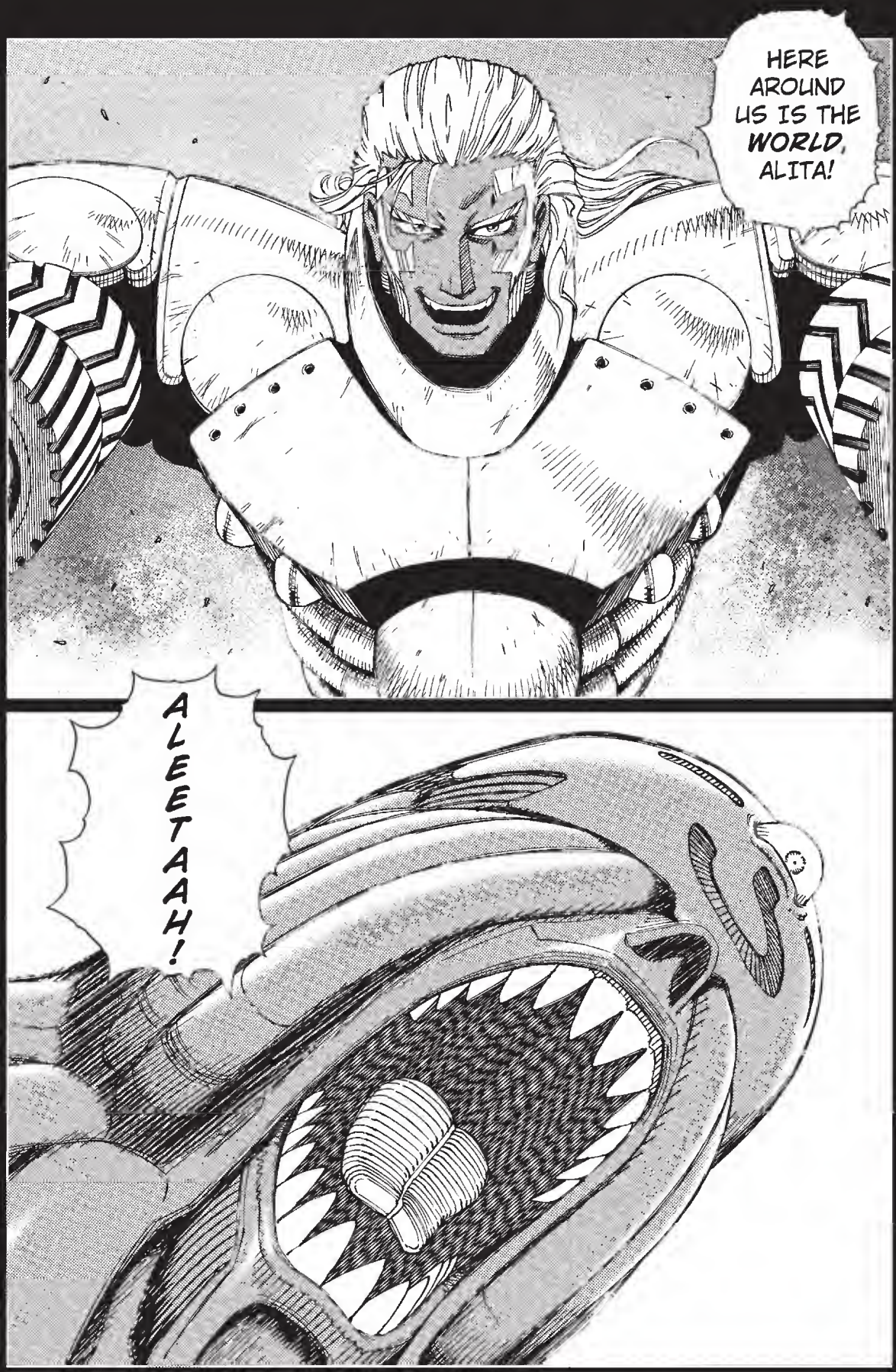


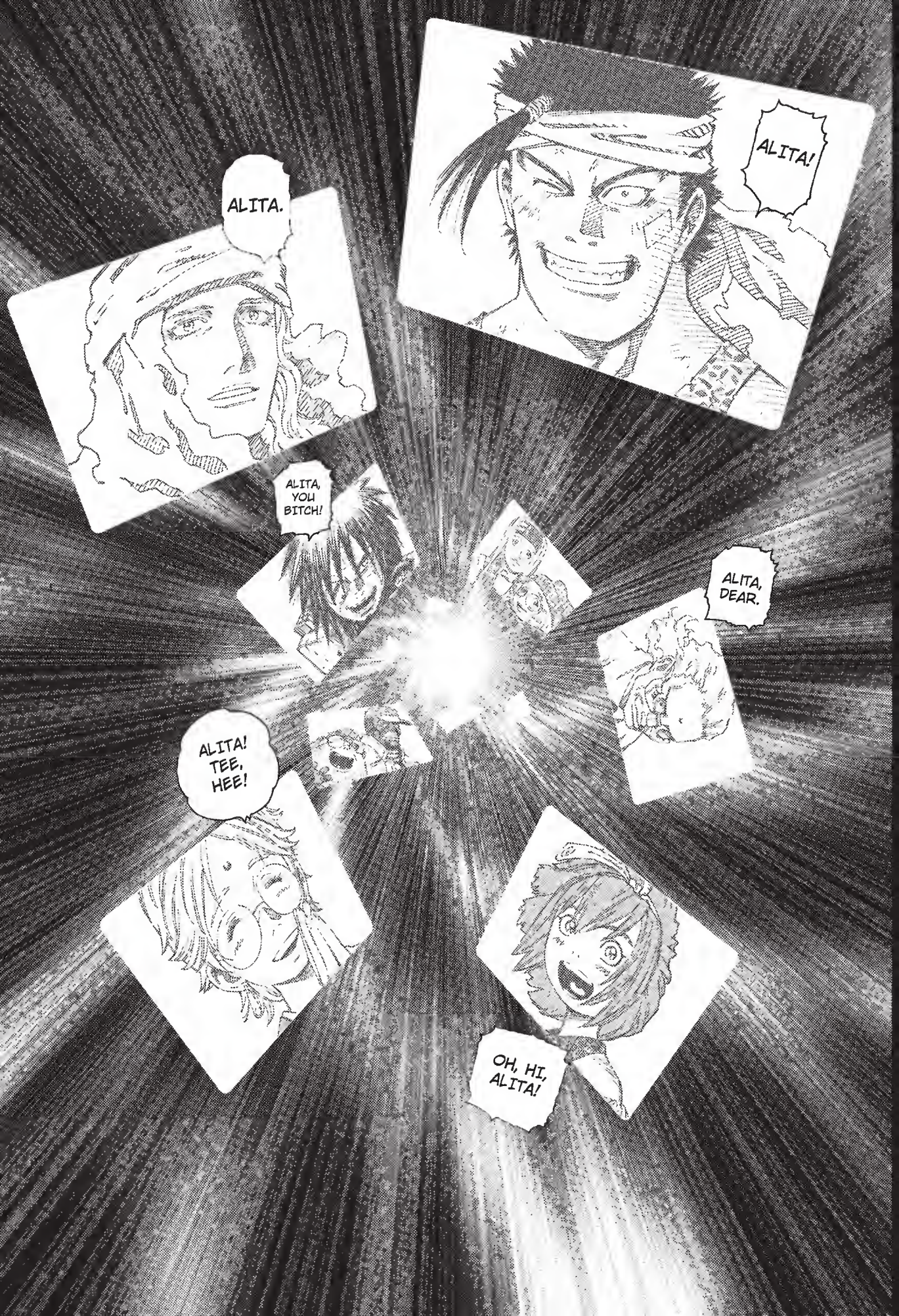
PHASE 39:

I Am Alita

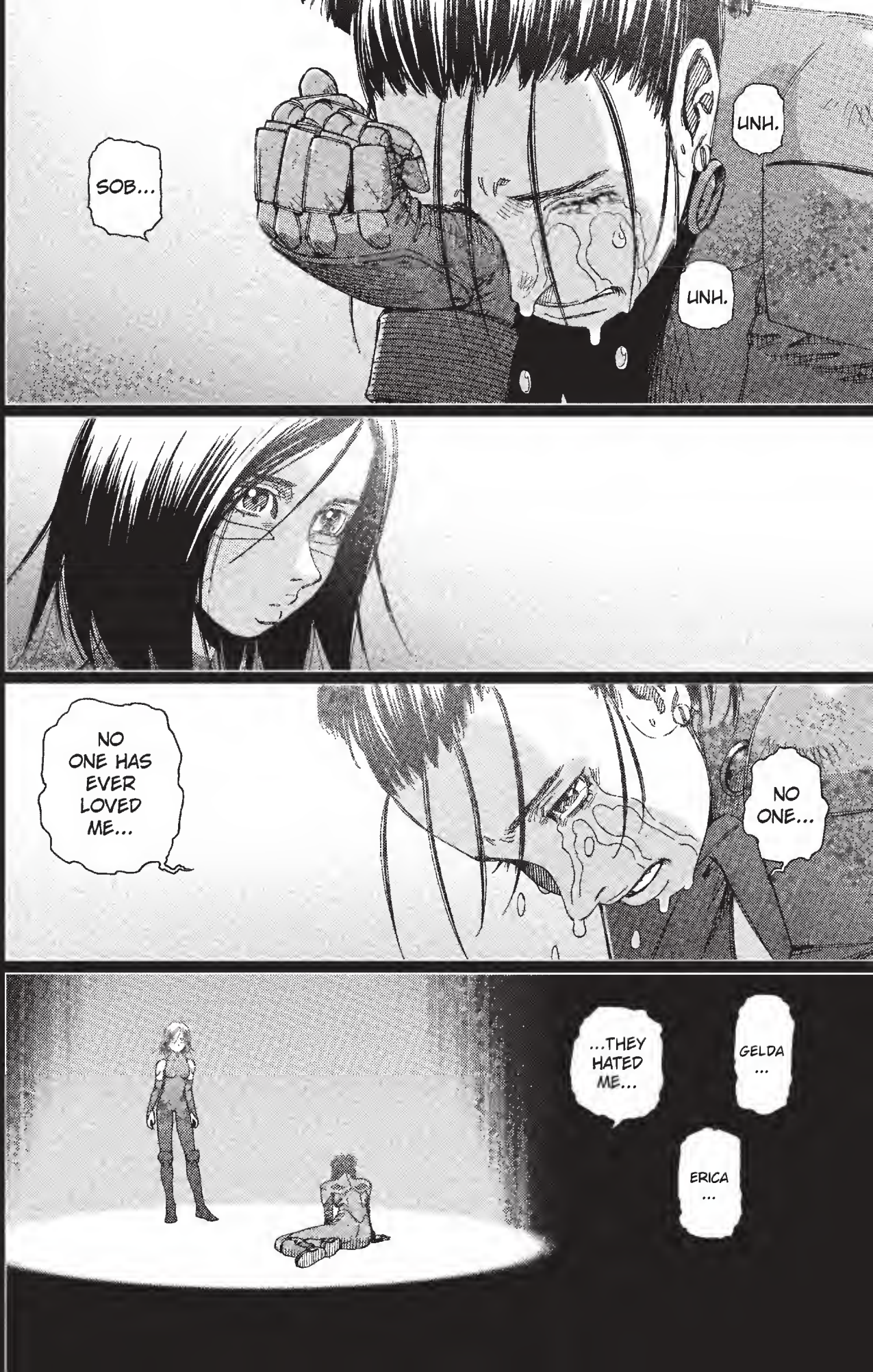

GOT IT!
STARTING TODAY, YOUR NAME IS "ALITA"!

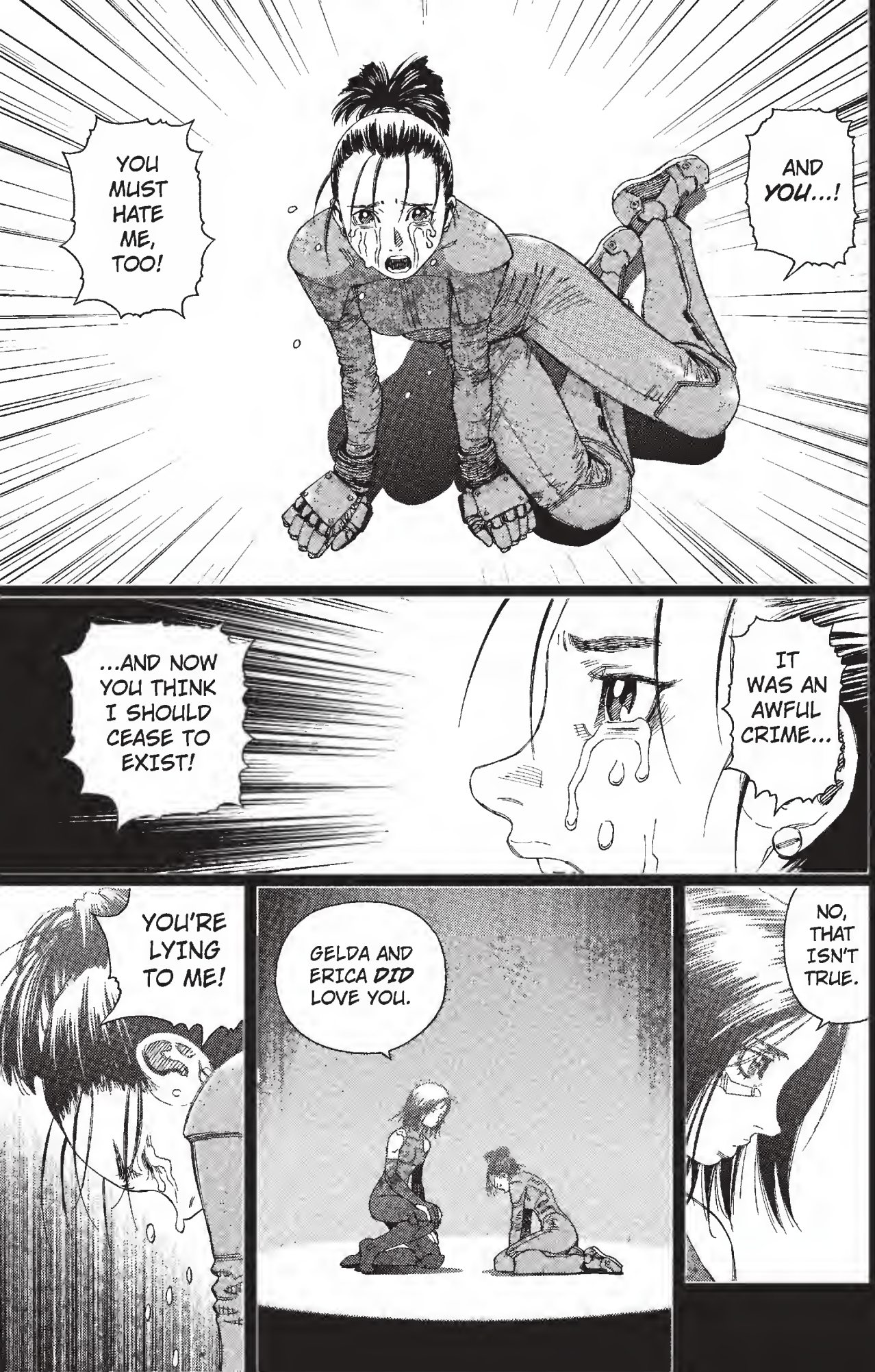

WELL, I LIKE IT. DON'T BE MEAN!
ALITA. HUH? SOUNDS LIKE A WILDFLOWER OR SOMETHING...
IT'S A GOOD NAME...

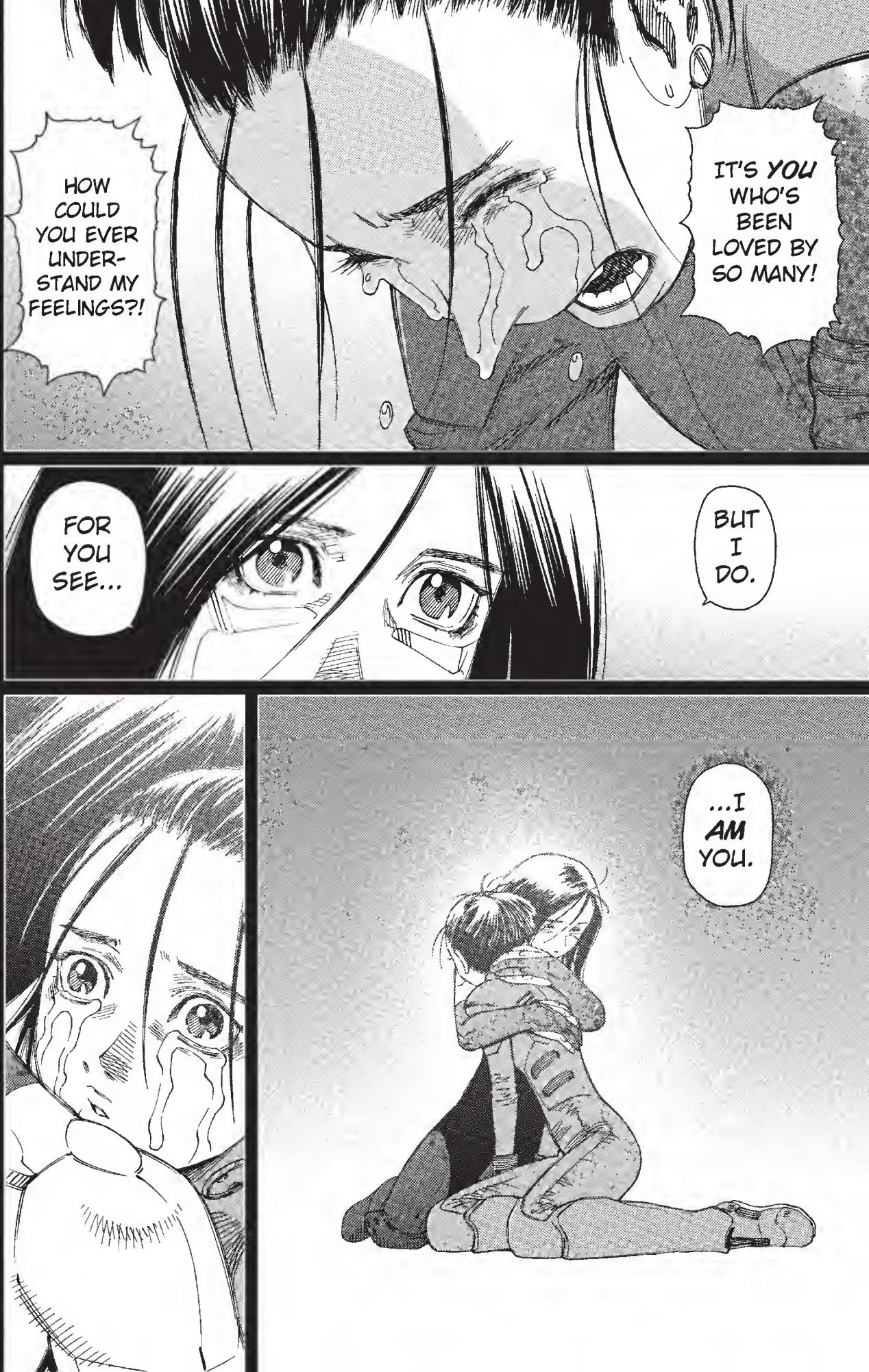

HERE AROUND US IS THE WORLD, ALITA!
ALEETAAH!

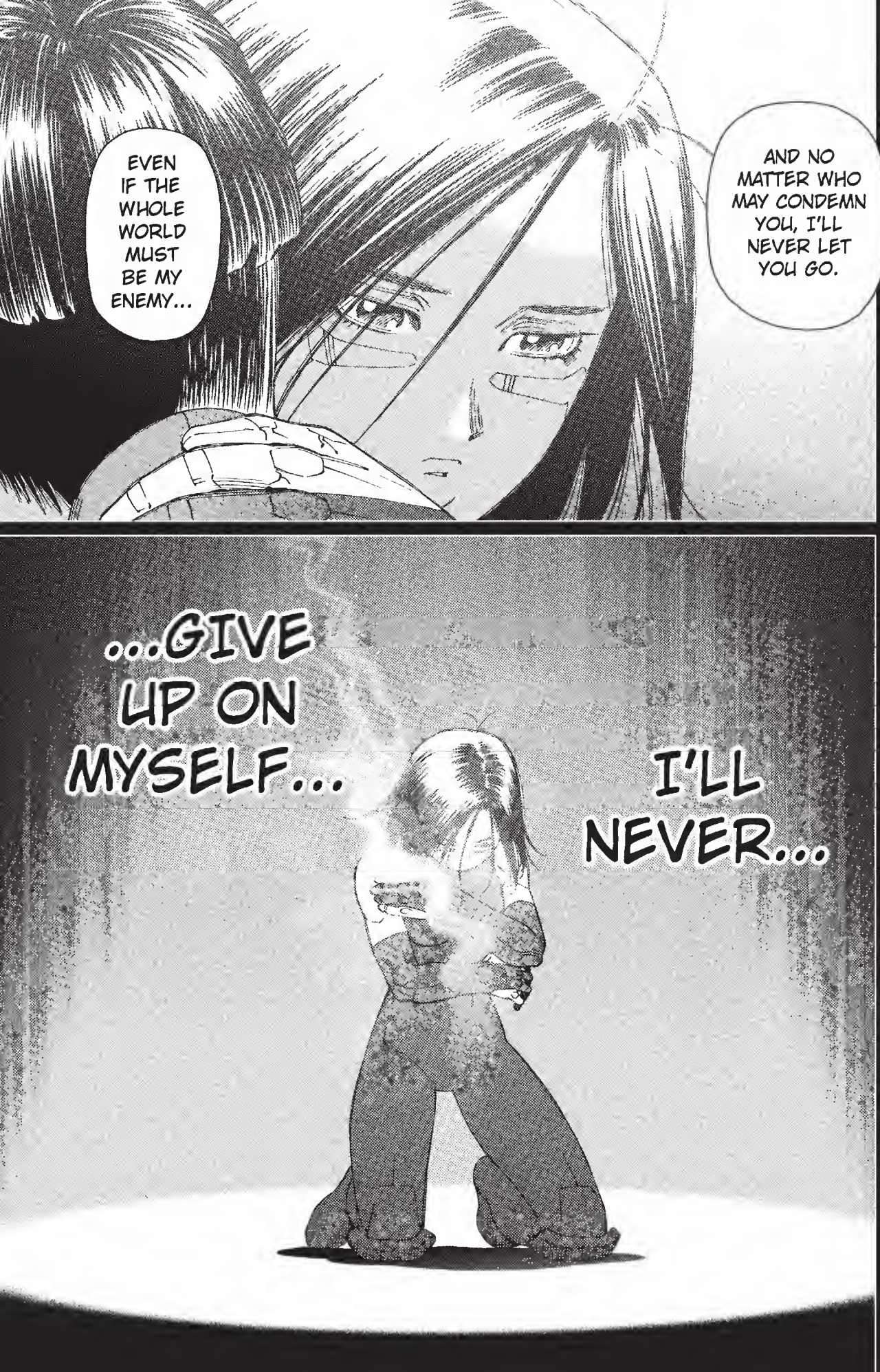

ALITA!
ALITA.
ALITA, YOU BITCH!
ALITA, DEAR.
ALITA! TEE, HEE!
OH, HI, ALITA!

ALITA!

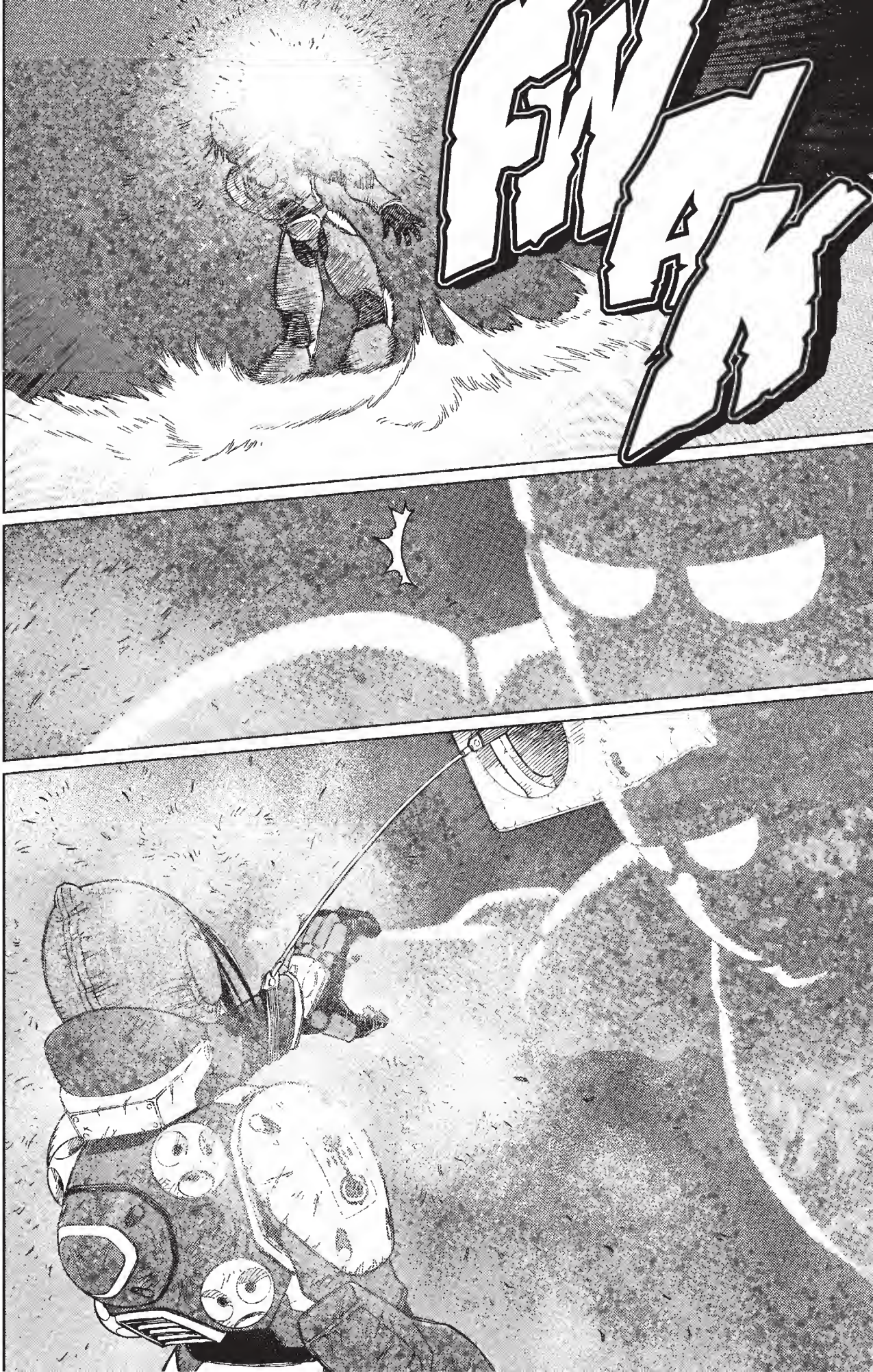

SOB...
UNH.
UNH.
NO ONE HAS EVER LOVED ME...
NO ONE...
...THEY HATED ME...
GELDA ...
ERICA ...


YOU MUST HATE ME, TOO!
AND YOU...!
...AND NOW YOU THINK I SHOULD CEASE TO EXIST!
IT WAS AN AWFUL CRIME...
YOU'RE LYING TO ME!
GELDA AND ERICA DID LOVE YOU.
NO, THAT ISN'T TRUE.


HOW COULD YOU EVER UNDER-STAND MY FEELINGS?!
IT'S YOU WHO'S BEEN LOVED BY SO MANY!
FOR YOU SEE...
BUT I DO.
...I AM YOU.


EVEN IF THE WHOLE WORLD MUST BE MY ENEMY...
AND NO MATTER WHO MAY CONDEMN YOU, I'LL NEVER LET YOU GO.
...GIVE UP ON MYSELF...
I'LL NEVER...

HOW INSPIR-ING!
HEY, DON'T SWEAT IT!
HAR HAR
I'M HER OPERATOR... GOTTA SAY SOMETHING DEEP.
ALITA ...
IT'S AS IF I'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR 200 YEARS.
STRANGE...
TMP
C'MON!
WELL ?
TMP
TMP
WELL !?
HEY! HERE I AM!
HEH, HEH! YOU'RE SO MUCH FUN TO PLAY WITH!


FWAK

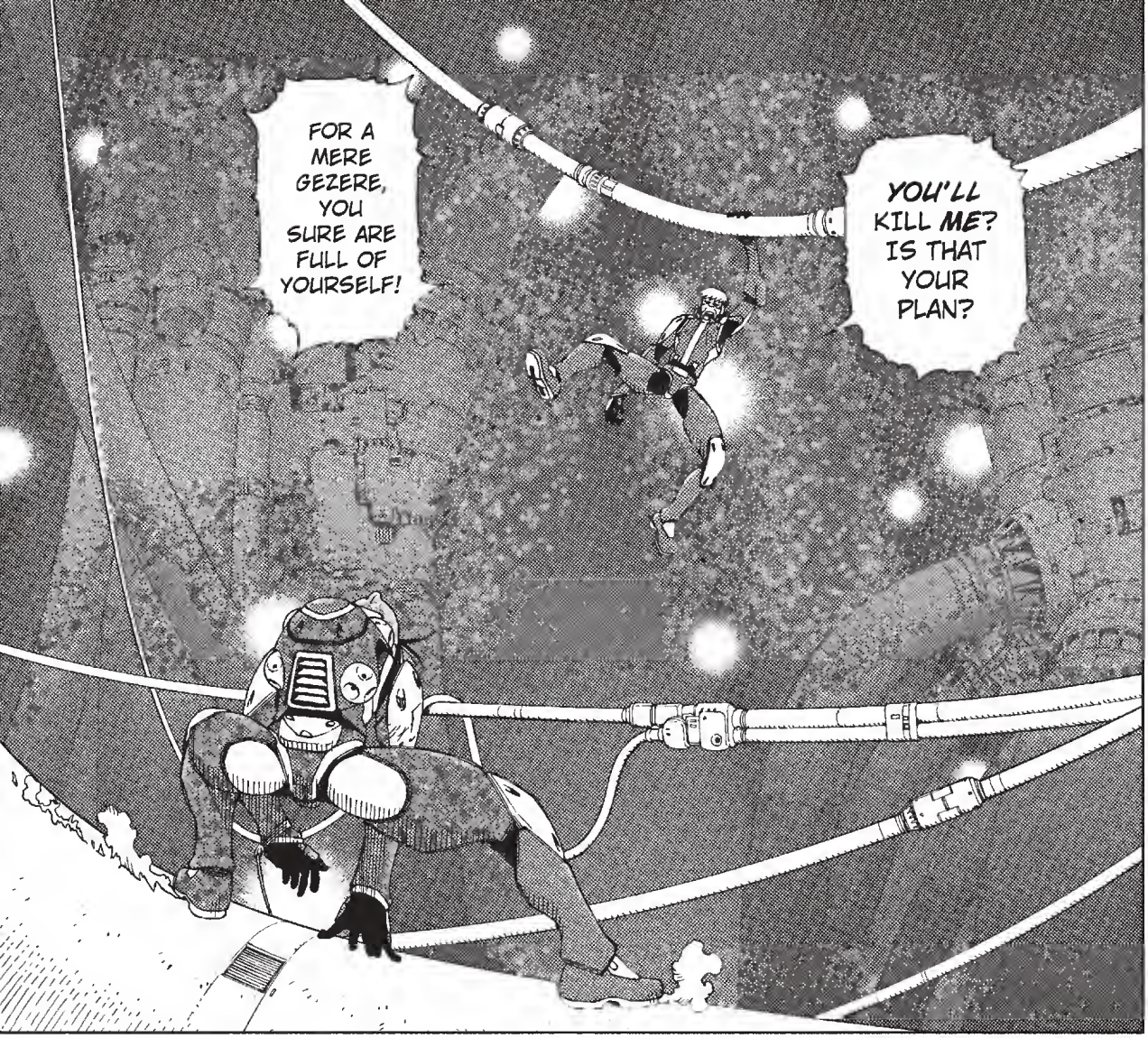
I AM YOKO.
AND I AM...
POIK
WSSH

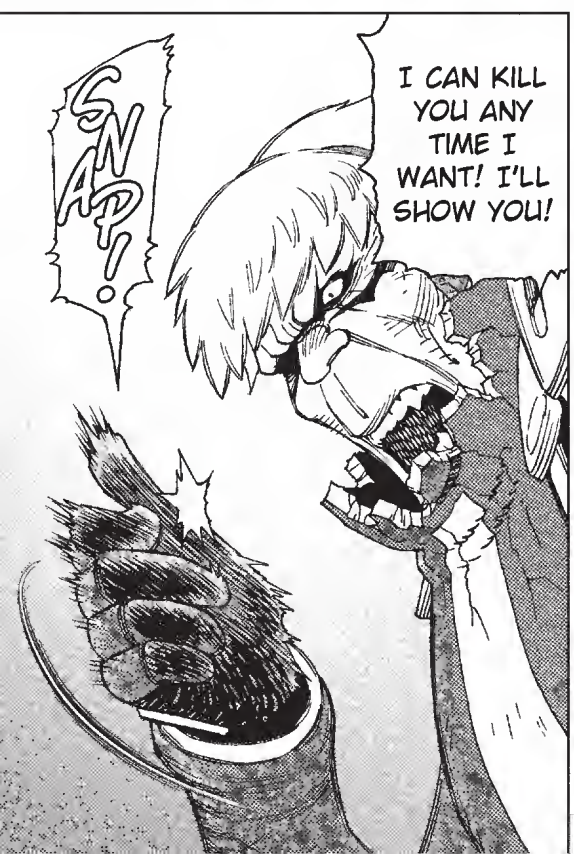
ALITA!

BUT I NULLIFIED HER HERTZA HAEON...
HOW'S THIS BRAT DEALING SUCH PENETRATING BLOWS?!
GAH!
THWASH
FWAP

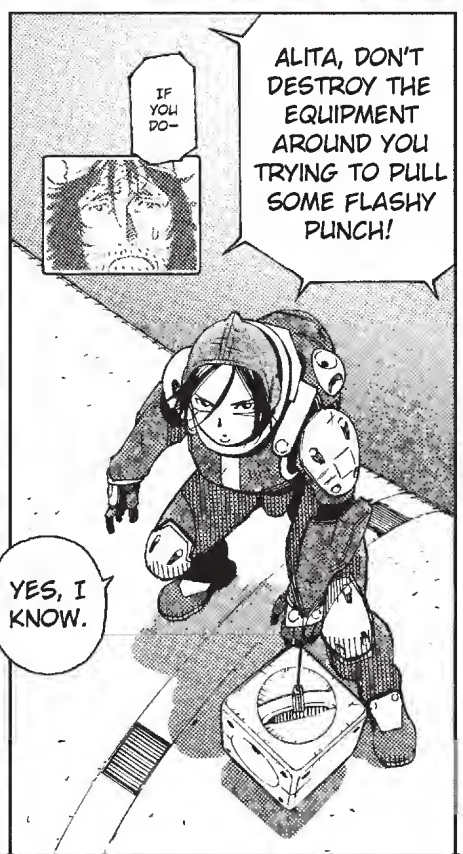
YOU'VE EVEN STOOPED SO LOW AS TO SERVE AS TRINIDAD'S DOG! I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!
TZYK! YOU ORDERED YOUR SUBORDINATES TO SELF-DESTRUCT WHILE YOU LIVED ON WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD!
I'LL SMASH YOU WITH MY OWN HANDS!
WUNK
CHAK
DON'T GET COCKY, MISS DIM-BULB!
TUP

WOOMSH
SK
RK
KRK

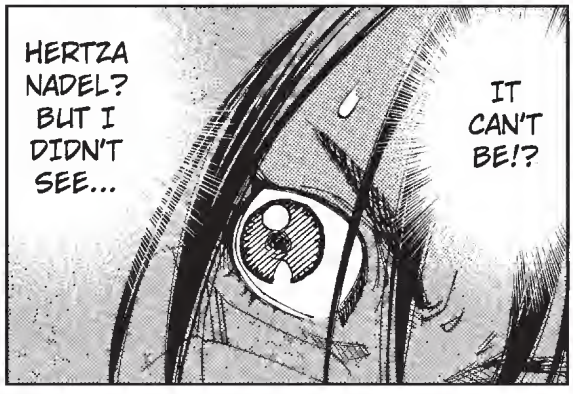

FOR A MERE GEZERE, YOU SURE ARE FULL OF YOURSELF!
YOU'LL KILL ME? IS THAT YOUR PLAN?


SNAP!
I CAN KILL YOU ANY TIME I WANT! I'LL SHOW YOU!

BESIDES... THAT SCUM IS NO ENEMY OF MINE ANYMORE.


ALITA, DON'T DESTROY THE EQUIPMENT AROUND YOU TRYING TO PULL SOME FLASHY PUNCH!
IF YOU DO—
YES, I KNOW.

BWAM


HERTZA NADEL? BUT I DIDN'T SEE...
IT CAN'T BE!?

...BUT THERE'S STILL MORE TO PANZER KUNST THAN YOU KNOW!
YOU'VE GOT A FEW OF THE BASICS DOWN...
HEE HEE

KLEK
TKSH

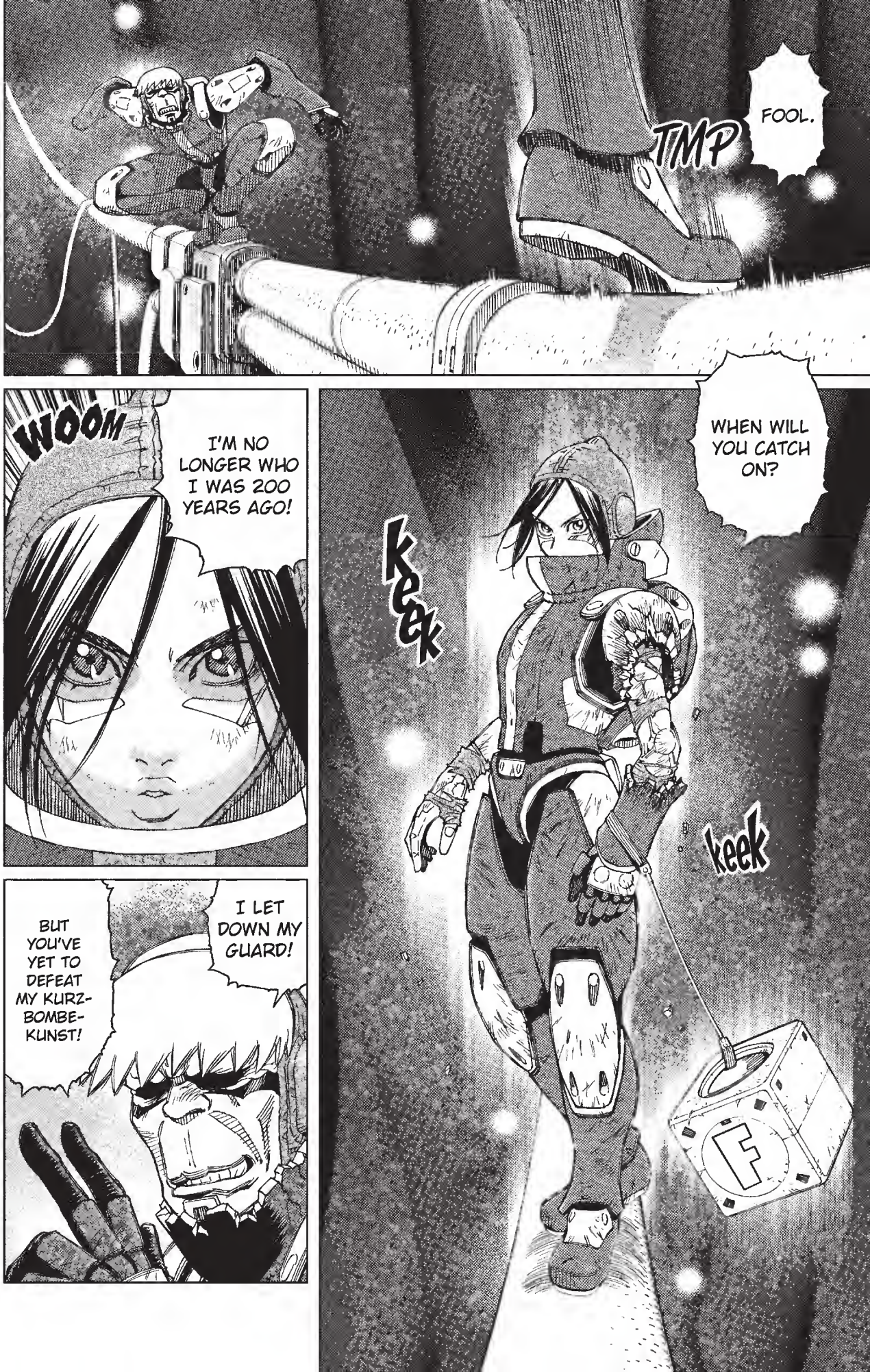
THAT SMELL ...
...SOME KIND OF EXPLO-SIVE?!
YOU GOT IT!
FIP
KURZ-BOMBE-KUNST!
ONE OF THE MAUSER SCHOOL WEAPON TECHNIQUES!
A UNI-DIRECTIONAL ADSORBENT CHAMELEON BOMB THE SIZE OF A BOOGER. IT MAY NOT PACK MUCH OF A PUNCH...
...BUT PLACE IT ON A VITAL SPOT, AND IT GETS THE JOB DONE!
PROVEN USEFUL FOR A WIDE RANGE OF TASKS—FROM TORTURE TO ASSASSINATION!

FIP
FAK!
WUP
SK
KRK
HEH!
ZING!
PIPK
PAP
PIP
HYAH!
WAP
PAP

TIP
WUP
TUP
PAP
PAP
PAP
FOOM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
SNAP!

SNAP!
SNAP!
ALL I NEED IS THE BARE MINIMUM DISTANCE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH YOU. EASY AS THAT.
SNAP!
I DON'T NEED TO STEP IN AS FAR AS A BLOW WOULD REQUIRE!
YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE IT!
SNAP!
SNAP!
HEE, HEE, HEE, HEE, HEE!
YOUR STUMPY LITTLE LIMBS COULDN'T REACH ME IN A MILLION YEARS!
SNAP!
HUH?
SST
...I WOULD HAVE STRUCK WITH MORE FORCE.
IF I KNEW I'D HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOU TOOT YOUR OWN HORN...
SIGH

WH... WHAT THE HELL?!
PLOP
ER?
I HAD A SPLIT-SECOND TO CREATE A THINLY-FOCUSED PLASMA JET AND MAKE A SMALL CRACK.
WHEN I HAD TO PARRY ALL YOUR BLOWS...
I CALL IT MY "PLASMA BISSEN"!
ZZT
THAT ISN'T PANZER KUNST!
WHY, YOU WILY LITTLE...


FOOL.
TMP
WHEN WILL YOU CATCH ON?
keek
keek
I'M NO LONGER WHO I WAS 200 YEARS AGO!
WOOM
I LET DOWN MY GUARD!
BUT YOU'VE YET TO DEFEAT MY KURZ-BOMBE-KUNST!

WSH
FSHT
AND I CAN BEAT YOU WITH ONE HAND!
!?
WUP!
I...I LOST MY CHI!
IS...IS THIS THE...GEHEIMNIS EINSATZRHYTHMEN ?!

HERTZA NADEL?! AN ÜBERGEHEIMNIS COMBO?!
I NEVER TAUGHT SUCH A HIGH-ORDER TECHNIQUE IN THE KAMMER GRUPPE!
KANG!
vmmst
VER-SCHLAG?!
HER POWER! I-IT'S...
KWA

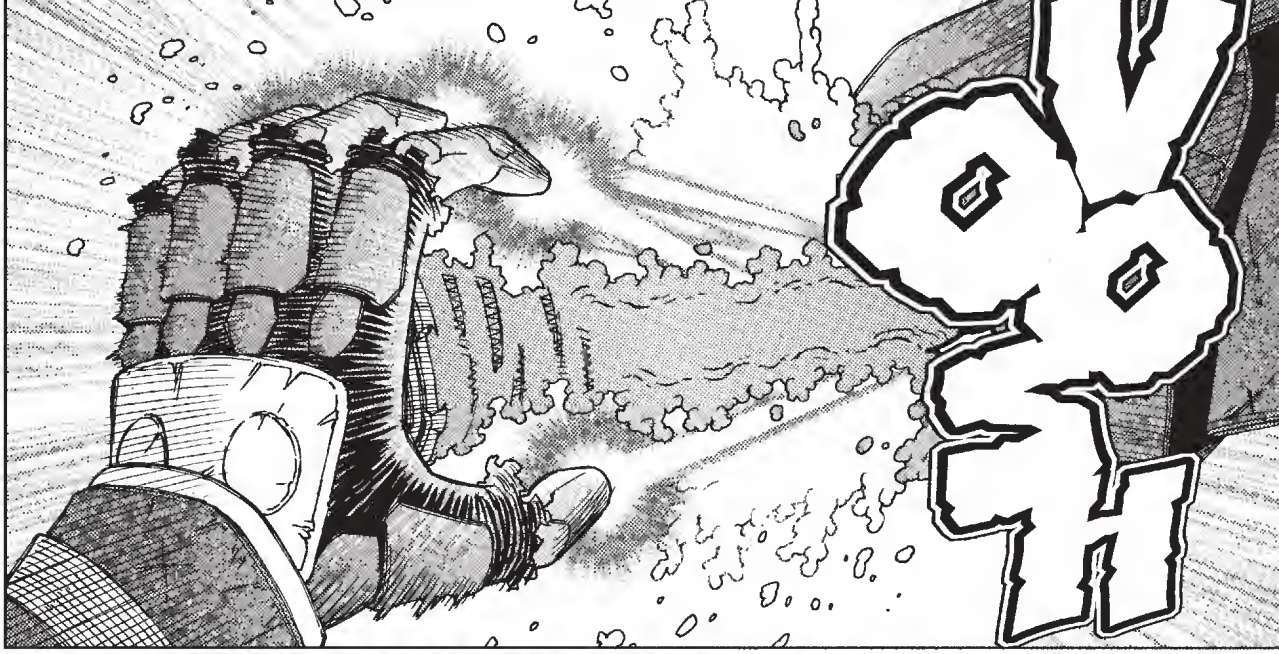
...ON A LEVEL WITH THE MEISTER CLASS!
NO! IT CAN'T! IT CAN'T BE TRUE!

PHASE 40:

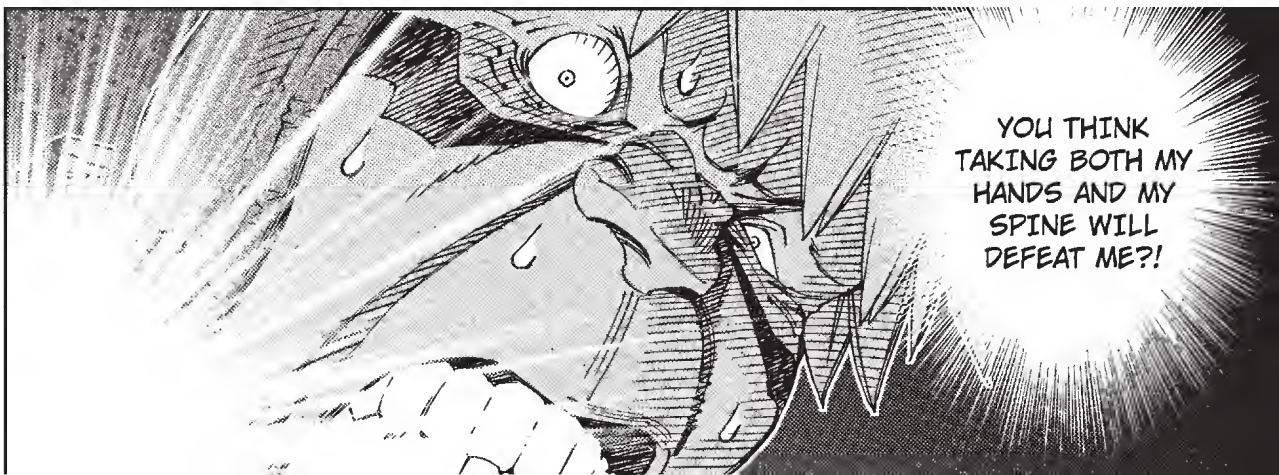
A Tadpole Is a Tadpole

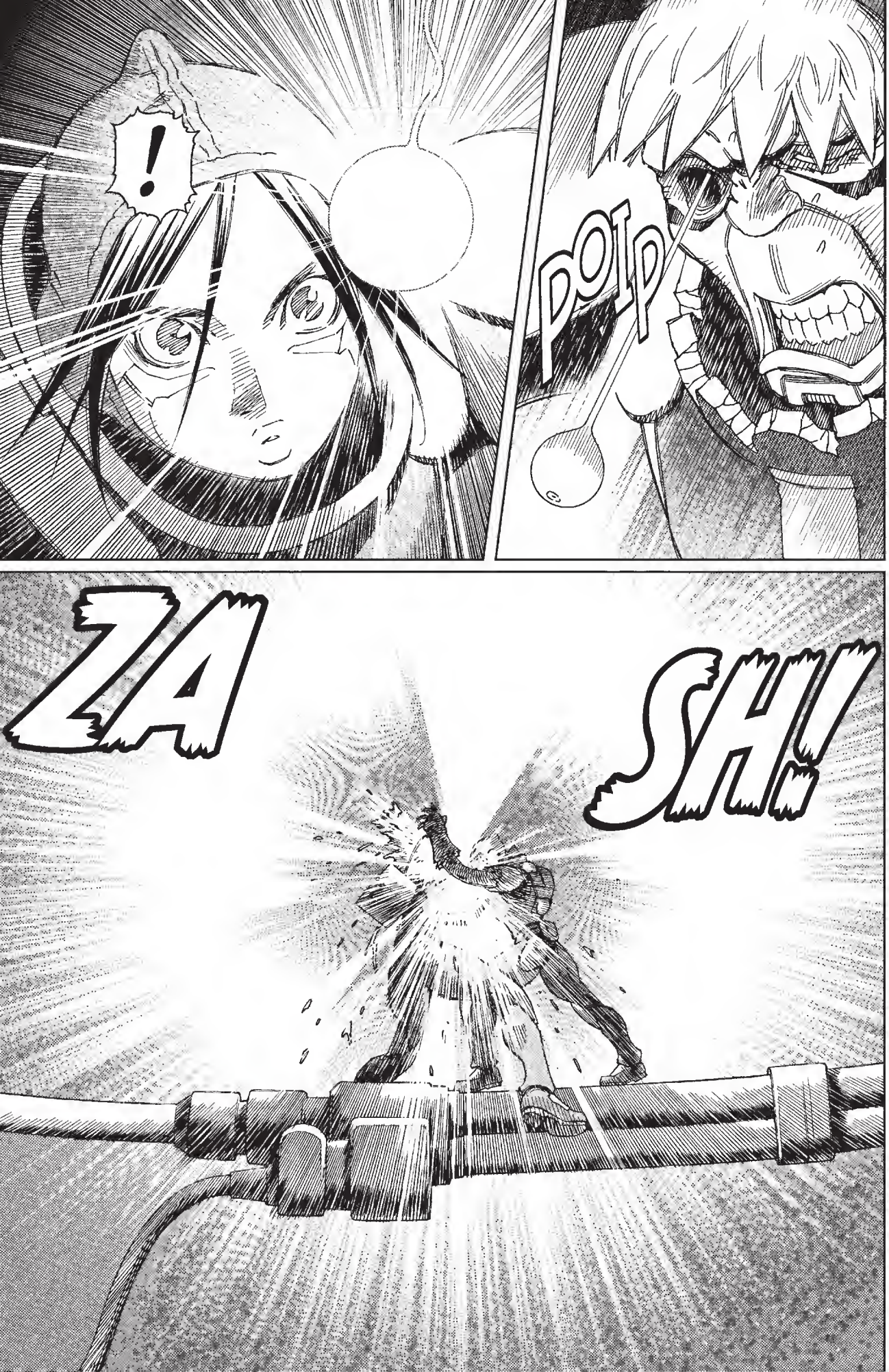
PWA
NNG
ZZT
ZZT
WWW
WANNG
KEK
KEK
KEK

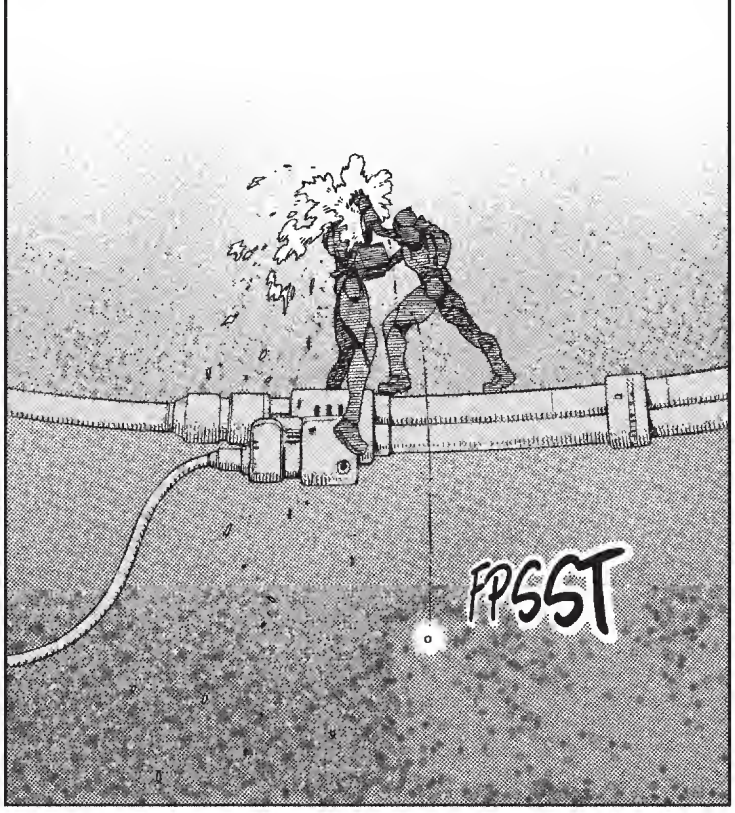
KRASH
GAK!
SK REE K
GWOM
I'M THE CHAMPION OF JUSTICE!
HOW DARE YOU!
DIE.


OOOH

AH!
SHM8

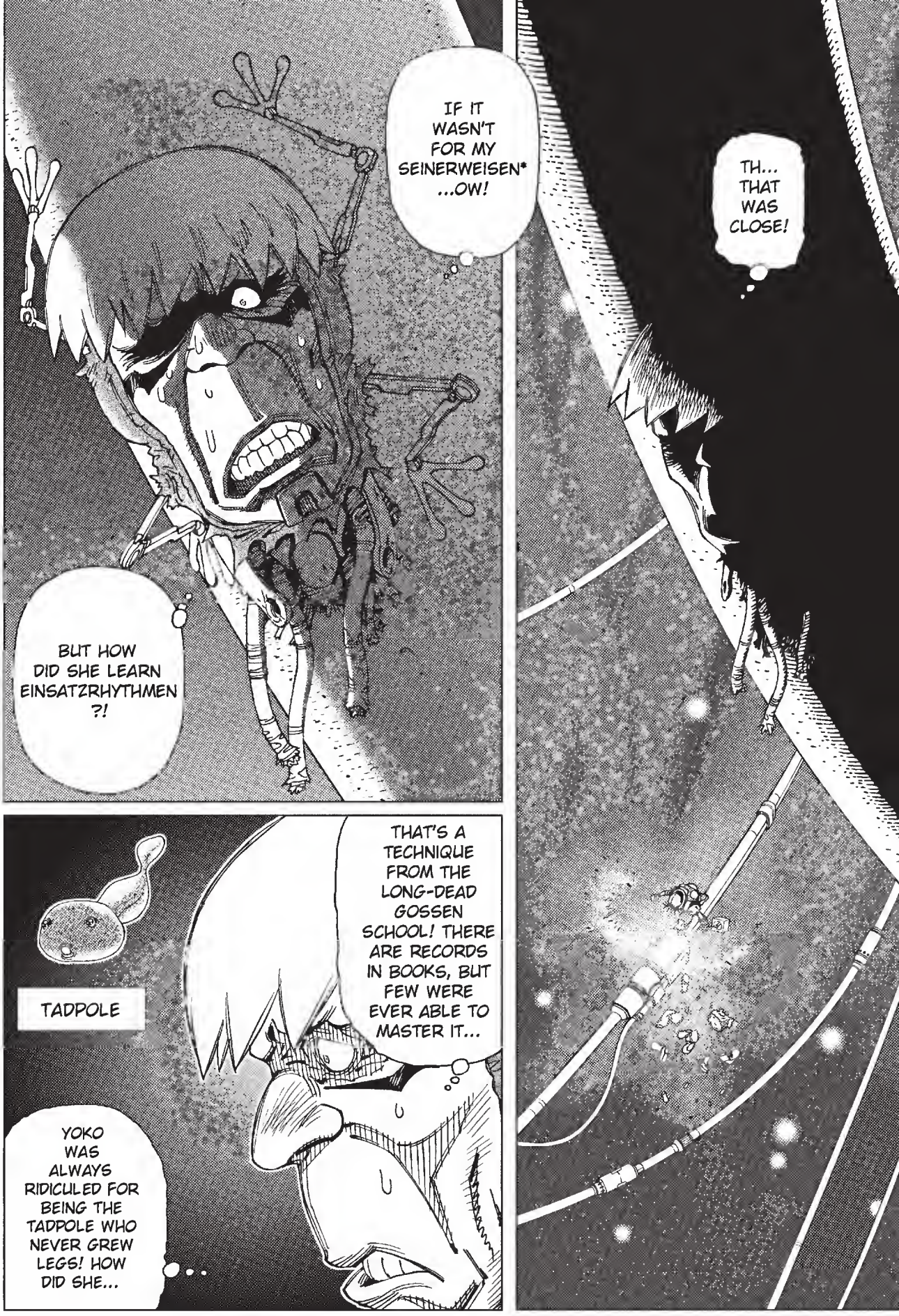

YOU THINK TAKING BOTH MY HANDS AND MY SPINE WILL DEFEAT ME?!


!
POIP
ZA
SH!

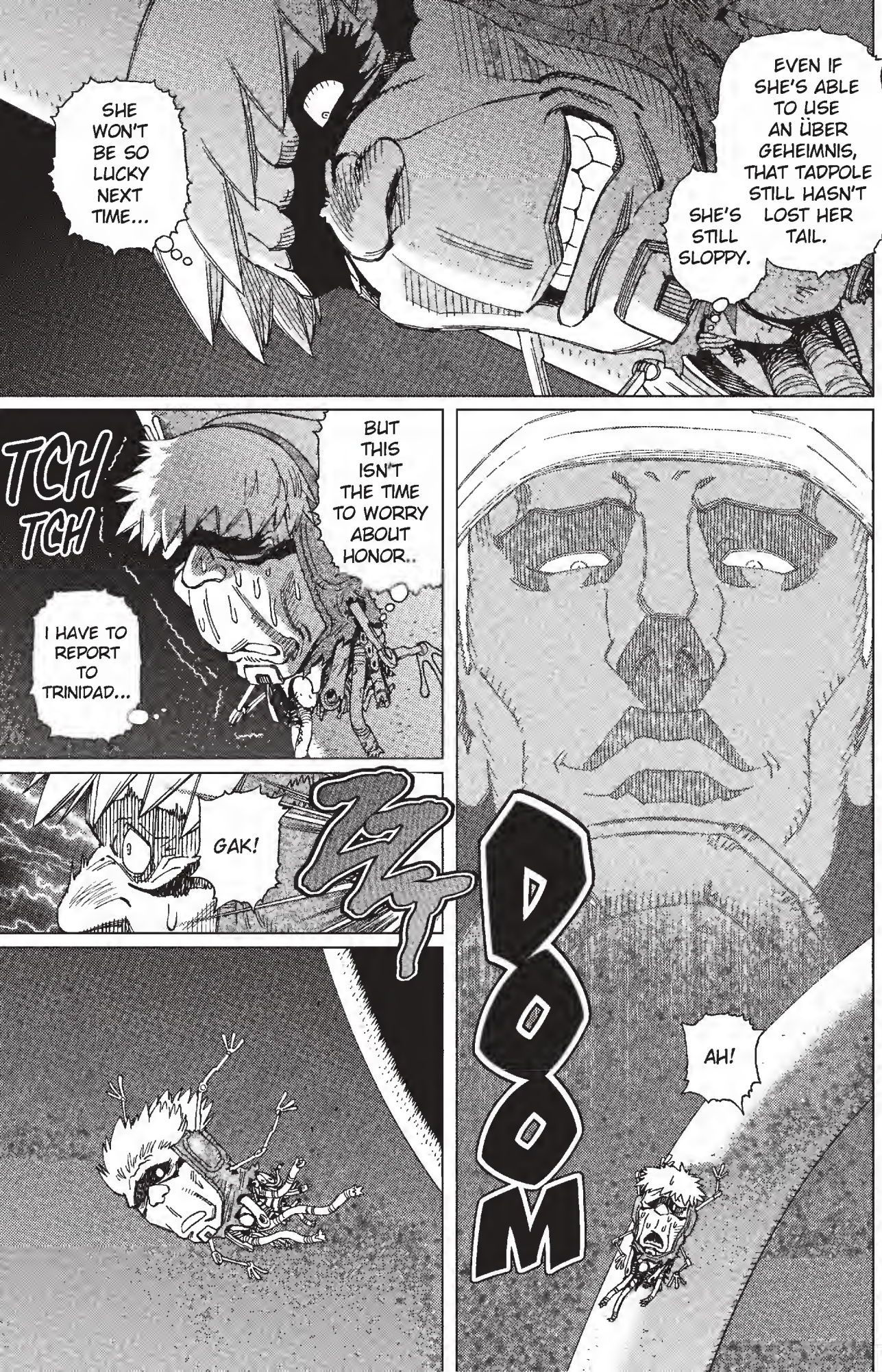


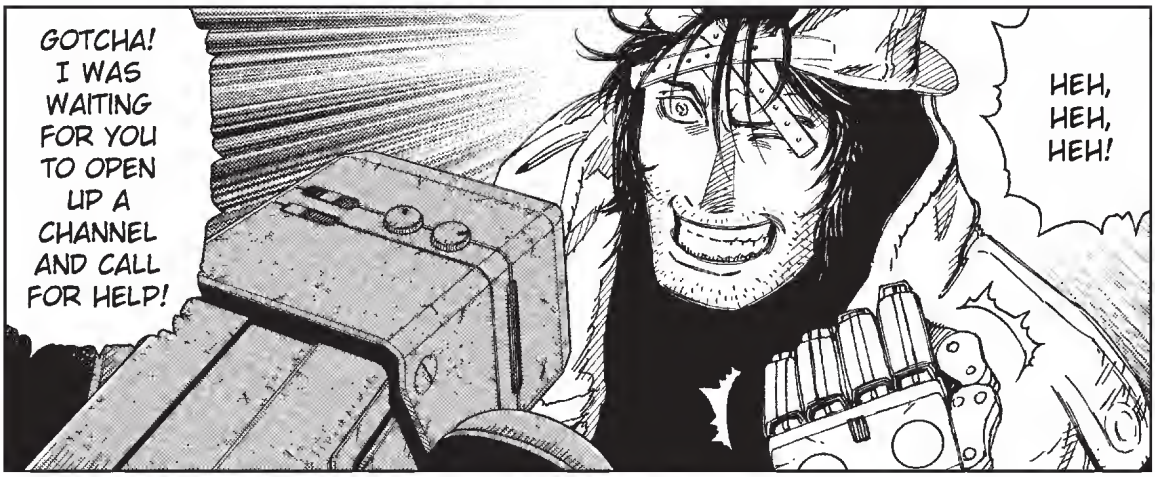
...UNH...

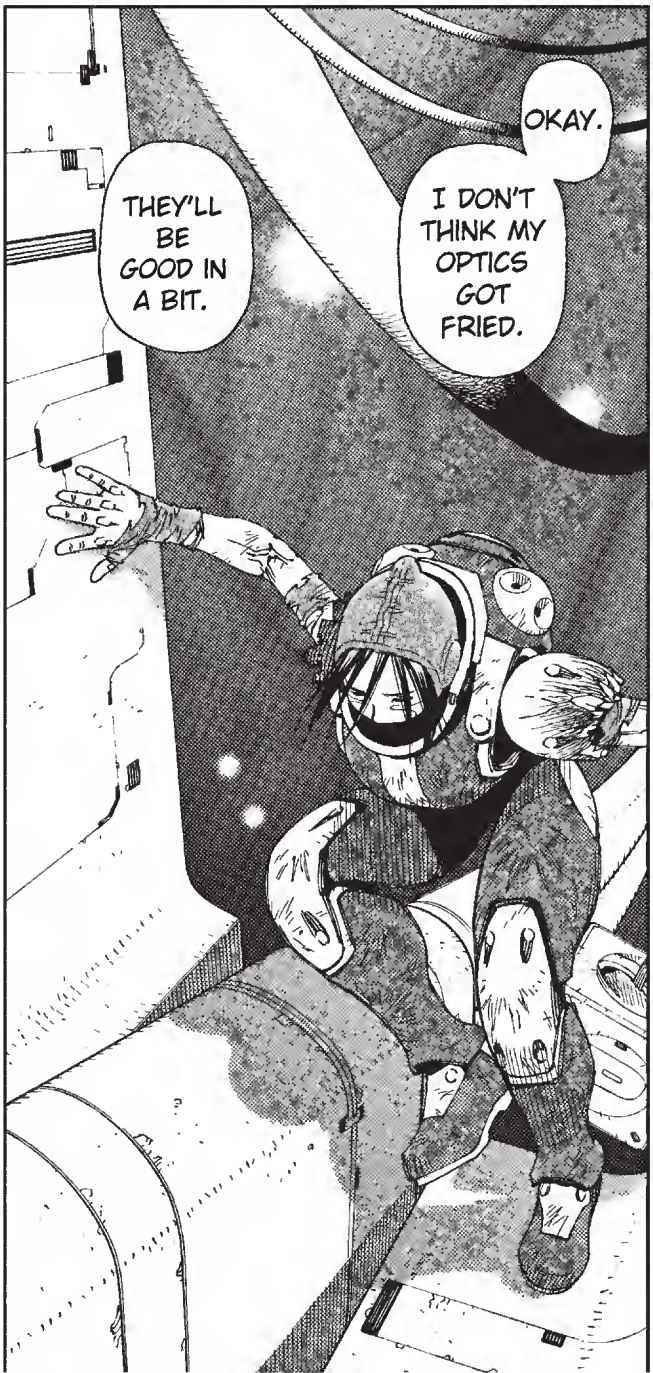
FUP
HE GOT AWAY...
N... NO...
DID YOU FINISH HIM?!
HE'S STILL A HÖHER KRIEGER, NO MATTER HOW VILE HE'S BECOME.
tksh
tksh



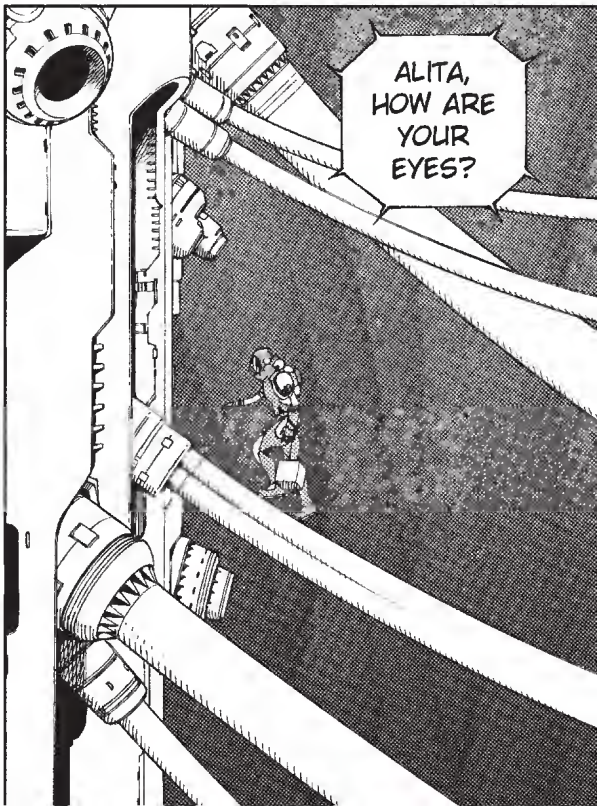
***Seinerweisen:** Individual techniques, tactics, or equipment derived from the characteristics or abilities of a Kunstler. Being that these techniques are individualized, they cannot be codified or inherited as techniques belonging to a particular style of Panzer Kunst. There was a tendancy to consider Kunstlers top-notch only after they have developed a Seinerweisen, regardless of the Kuntsler's official rank.*

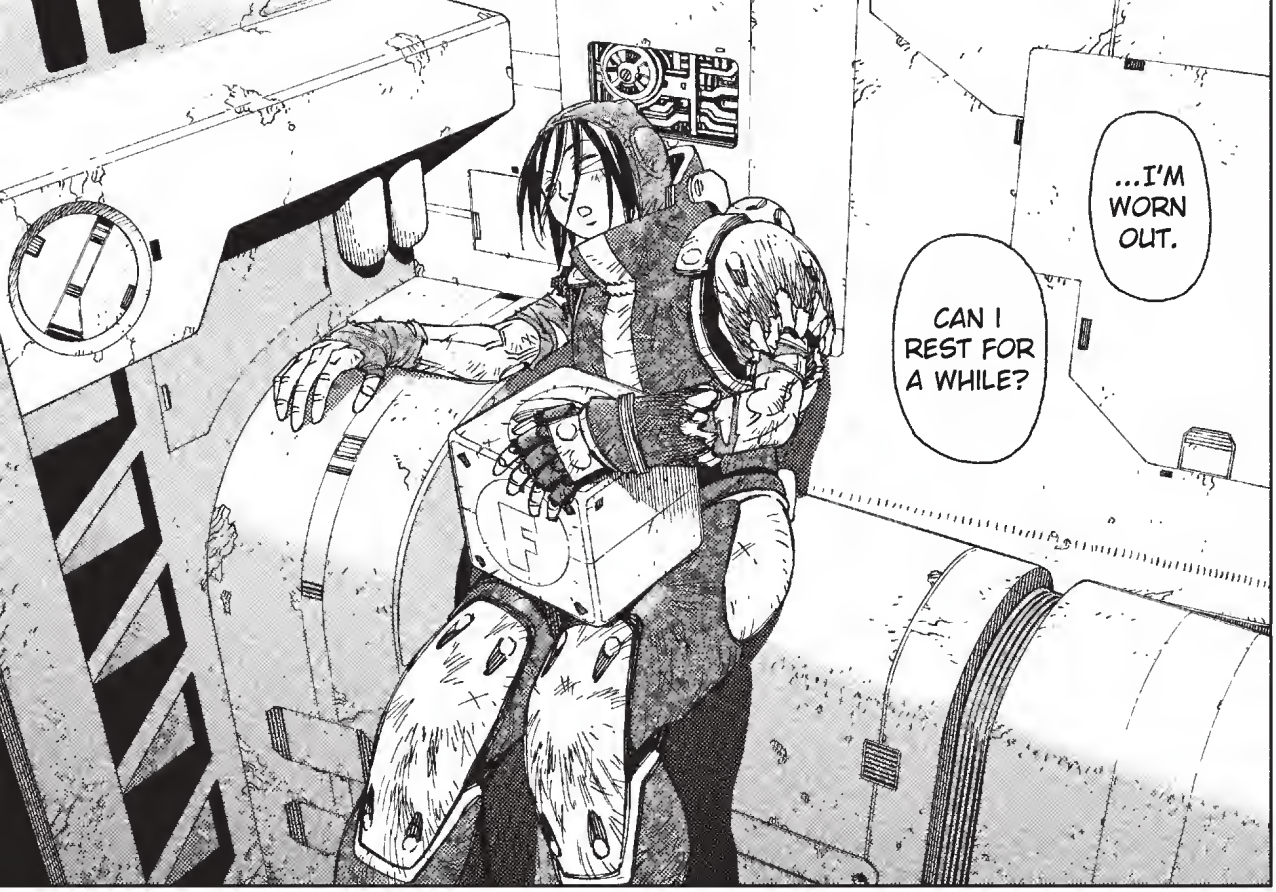

SHE WON'T BE SO LUCKY NEXT TIME...
EVEN IF SHE'S ABLE TO USE AN ÜBER GEHEIMNIS, THAT TADPOLE STILL HASN'T LOST HER TAIL.
SHE'S STILL SLOPPY.
TCH TCH
I HAVE TO REPORT TO TRINIDAD...
BUT THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT HONOR..
GAK!
EEP
BOOM
AH!

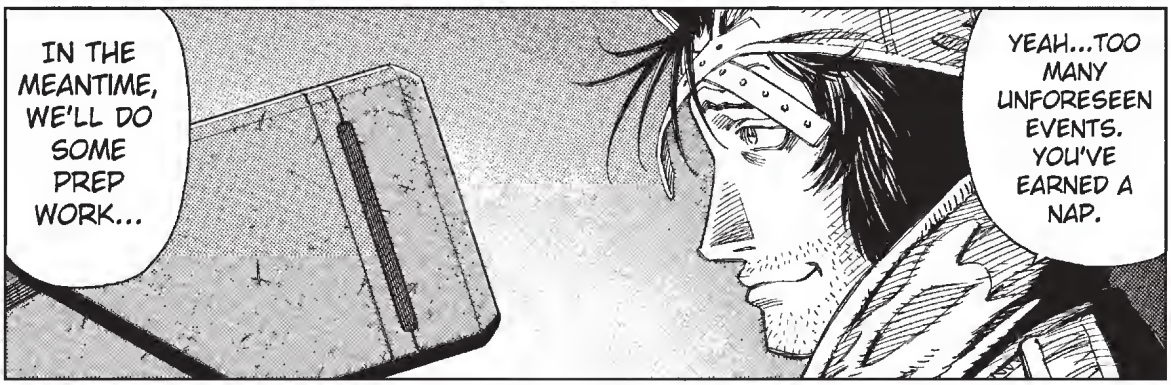

GOTCHA! I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO OPEN UP A CHANNEL AND CALL FOR HELP!
HEH, HEH, HEH!

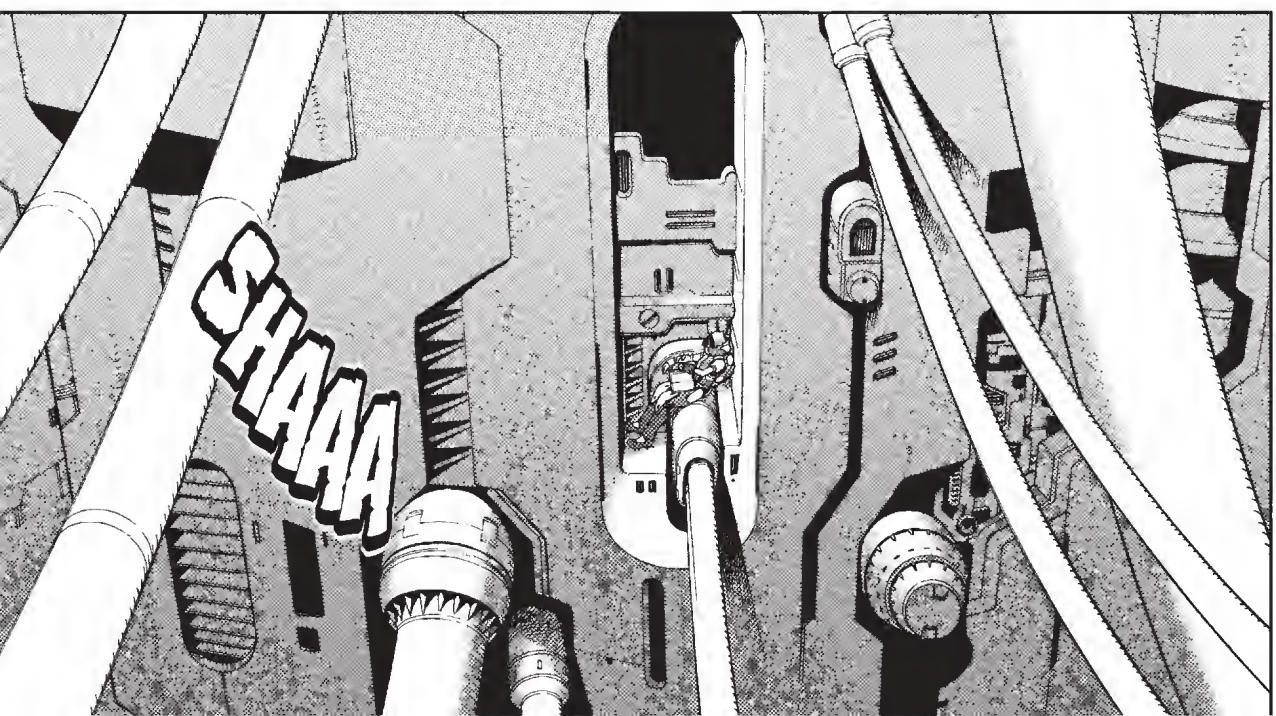

OKAY.
I DON'T THINK MY OPTICS GOT FRIED.
THEY'LL BE GOOD IN A BIT.

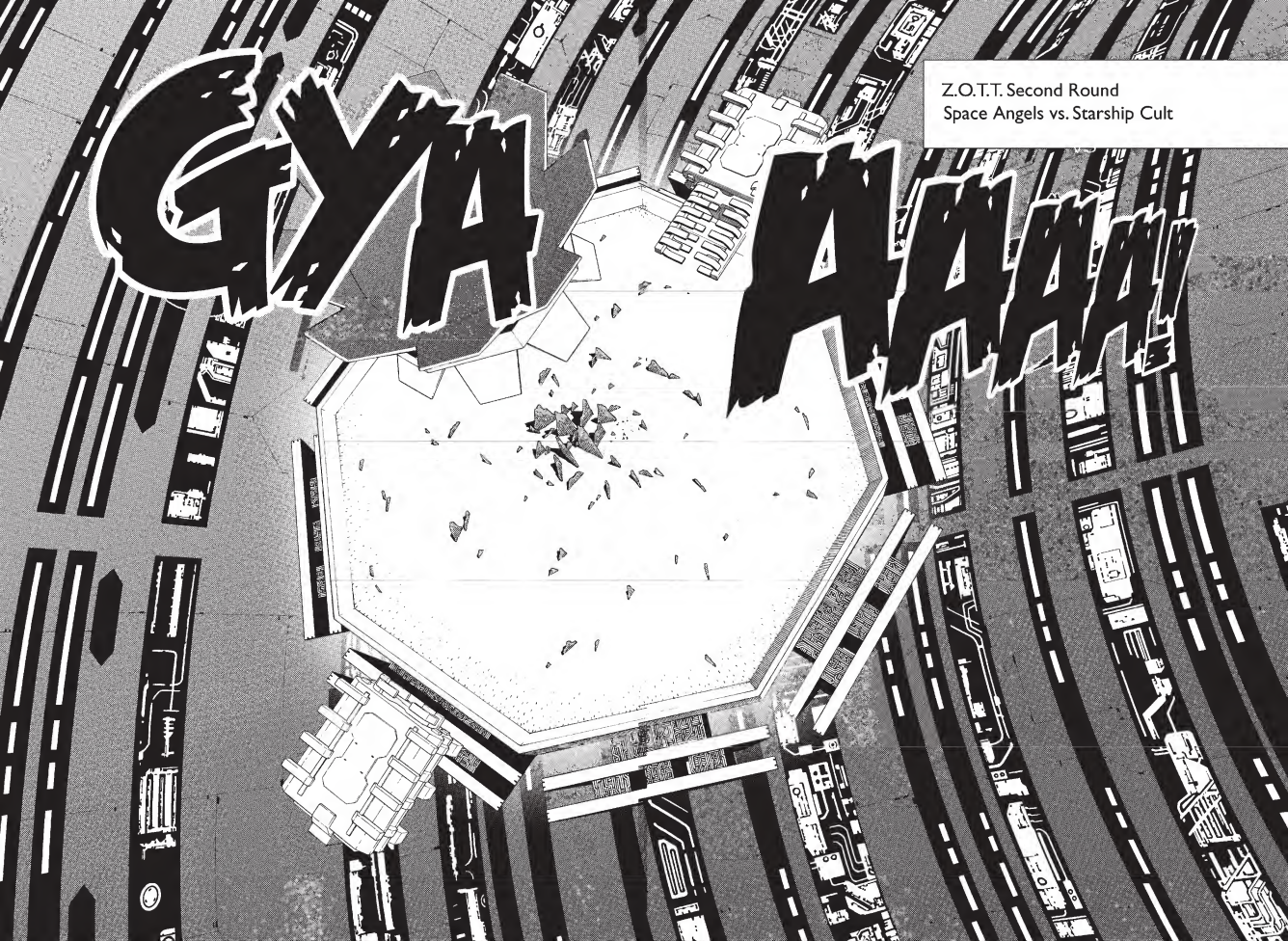
FRIED HIS CIRCUITS GOOD! EVEN IF HE *WERE* ALIVE, HE'D BE OUT COLD FOR DAYS.
HEH HEH

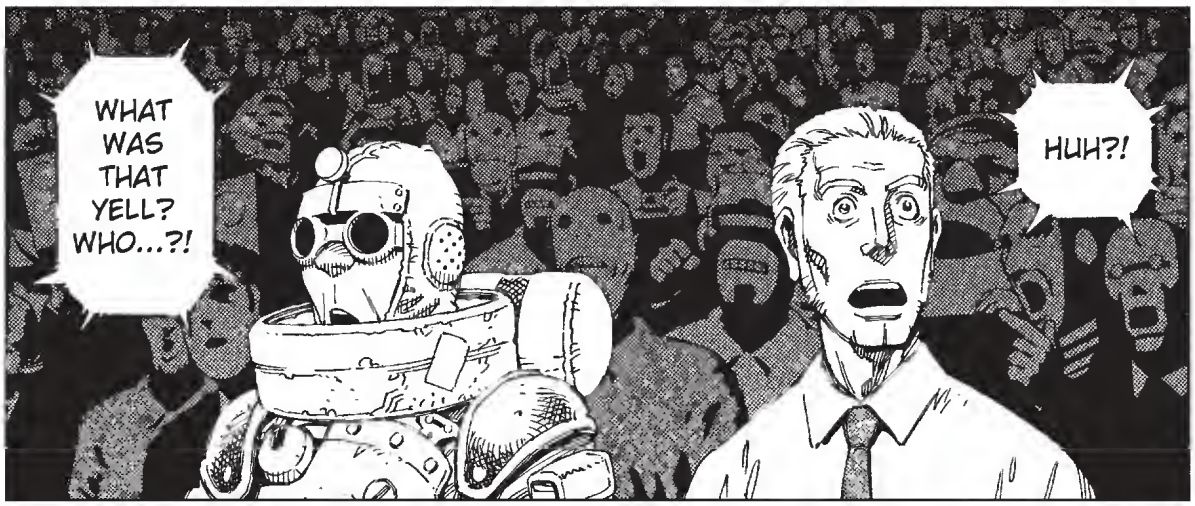

ALITA, HOW ARE YOUR EYES?

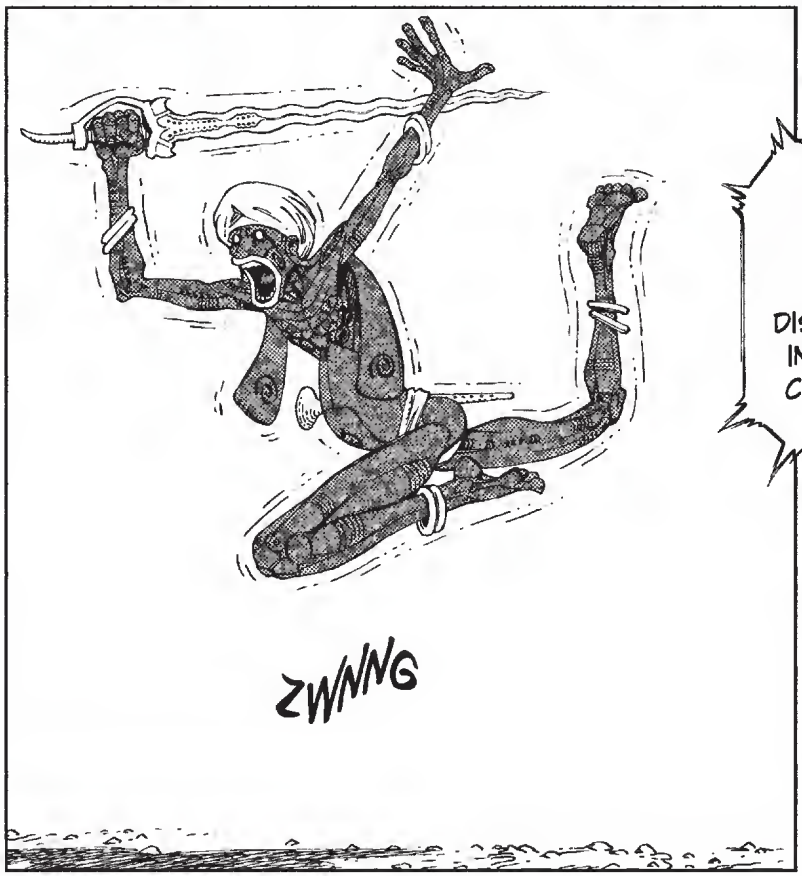

...I'M WORN OUT.
CAN I REST FOR A WHILE?

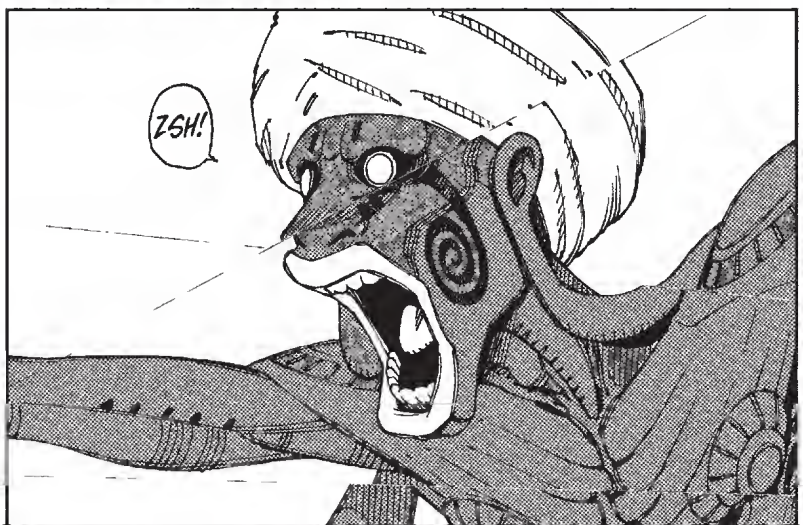

YEAH...TOO MANY UNFORESEEN EVENTS. YOU'VE EARNED A NAP.
IN THE MEANTIME, WE'LL DO SOME PREP WORK...

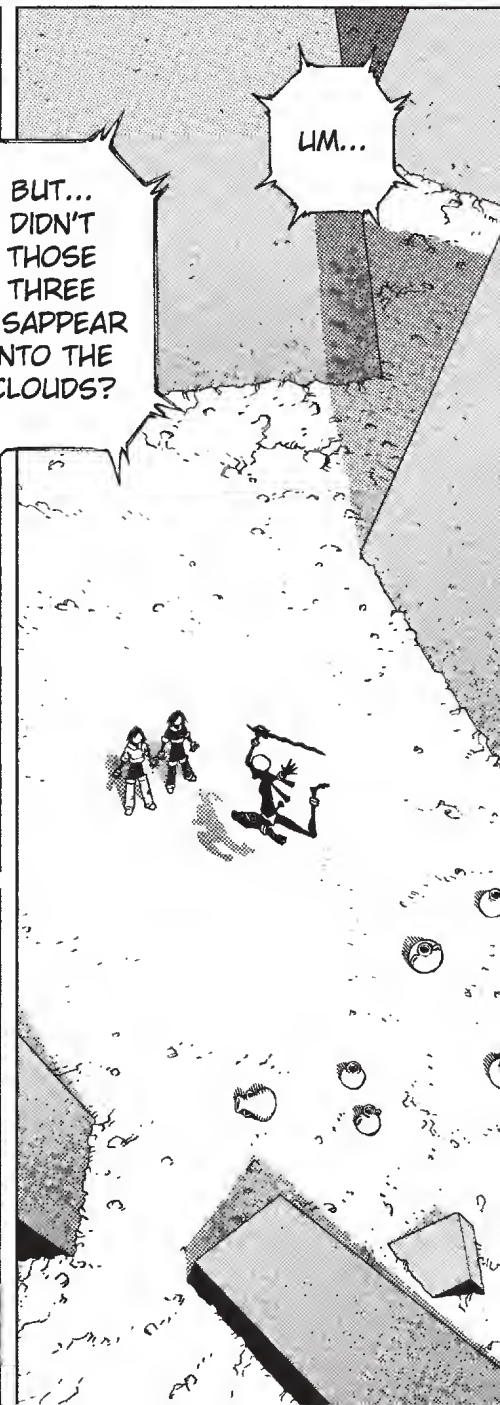

SHAAA

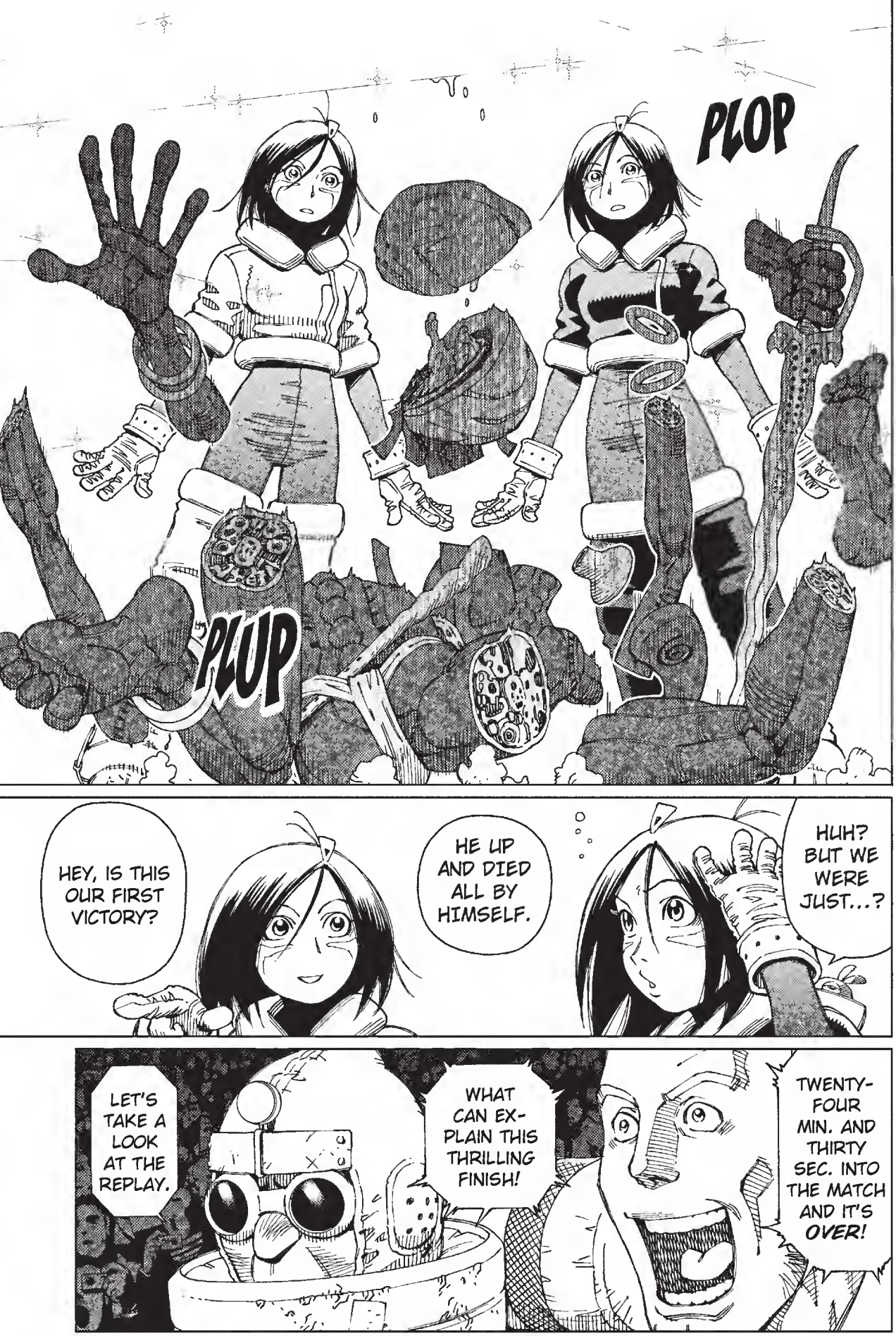

GYA
AAAA!!
Z.O.T.T. Second Round
Space Angels vs. Starship Cult

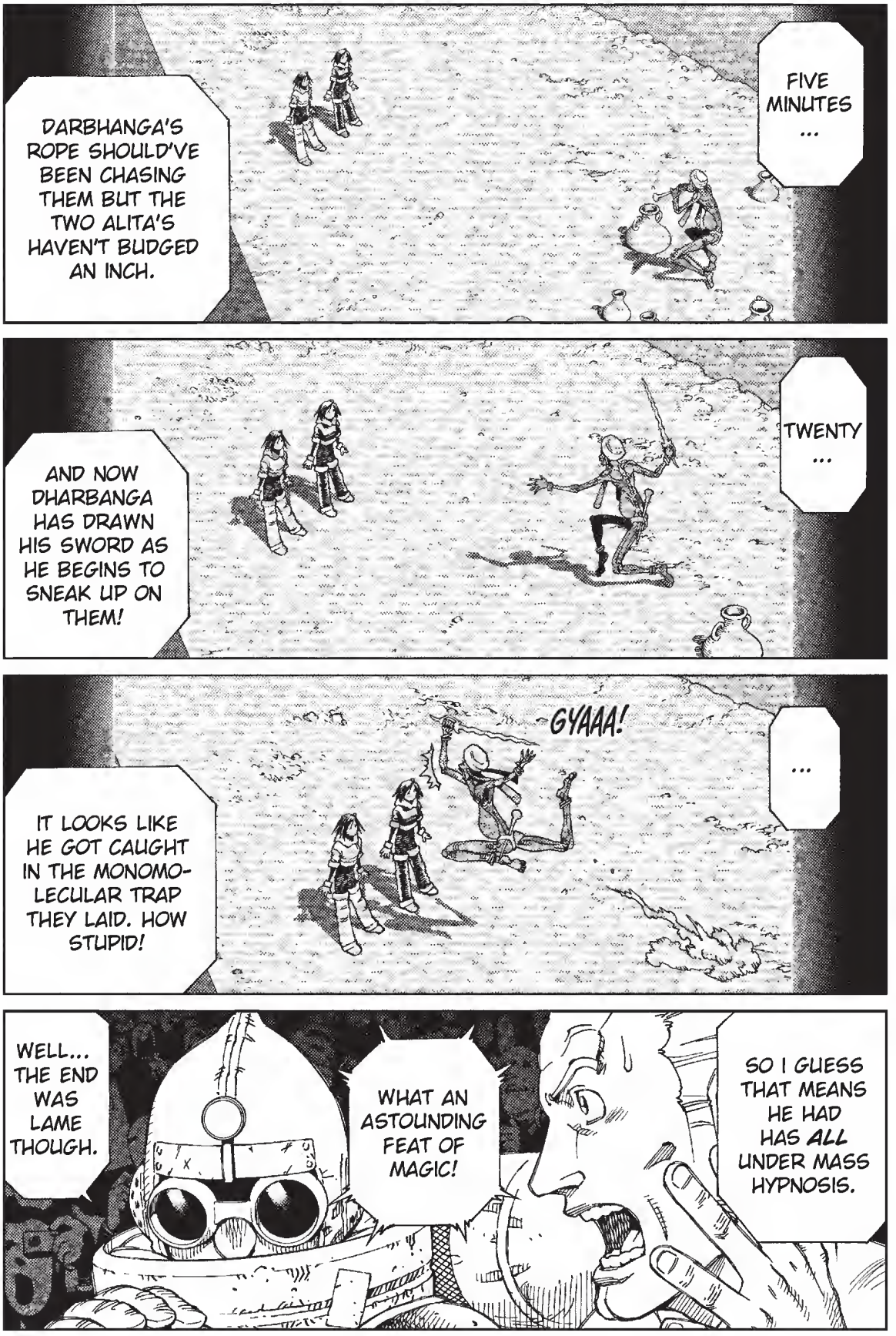

WHAT WAS THAT YELL? WHO...?!
HUH?!


ZWNNG

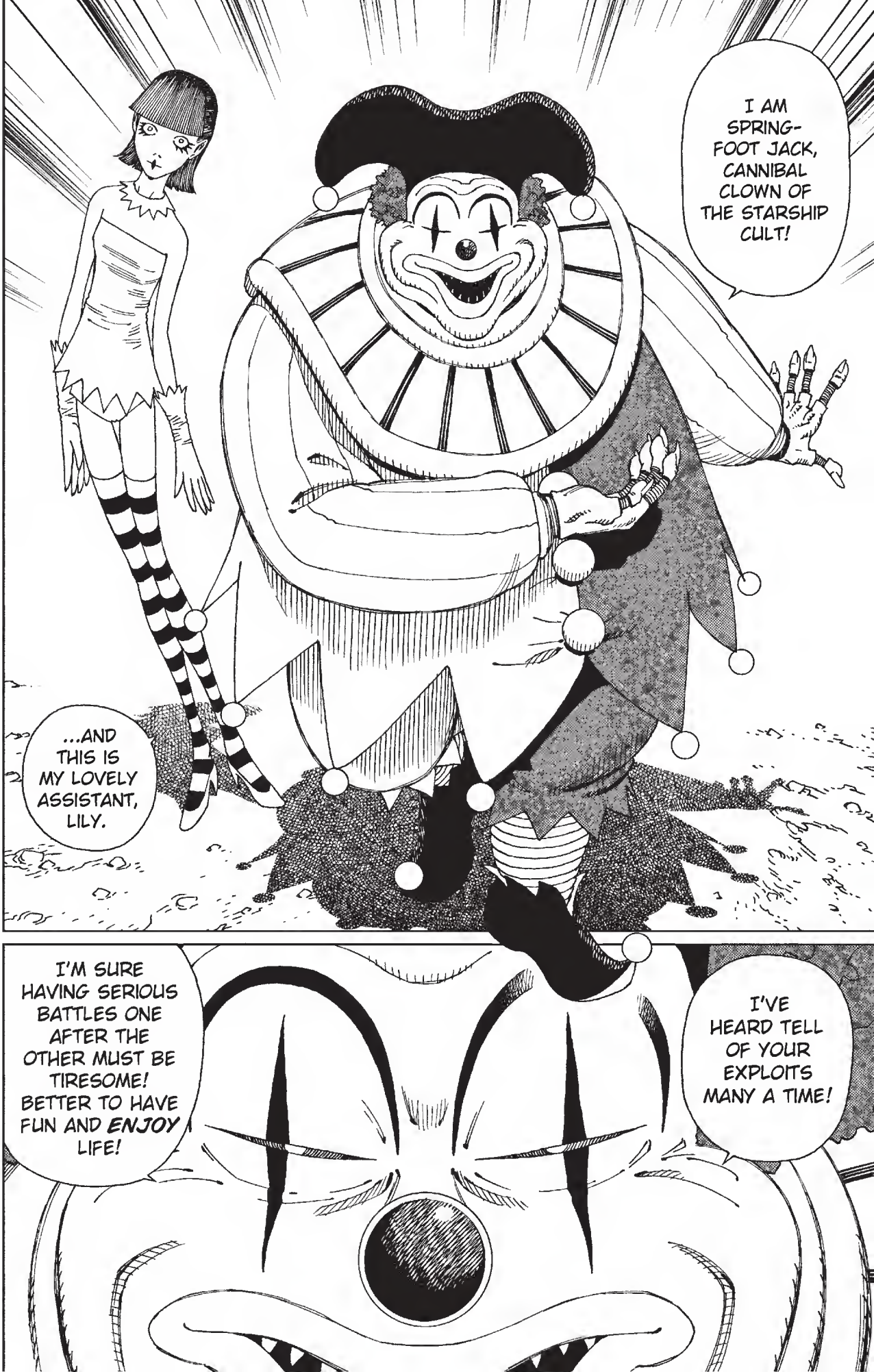

ZSH!


UM...
BUT... DIDN'T THOSE THREE DISAPPEAR INTO THE CLOUDS?

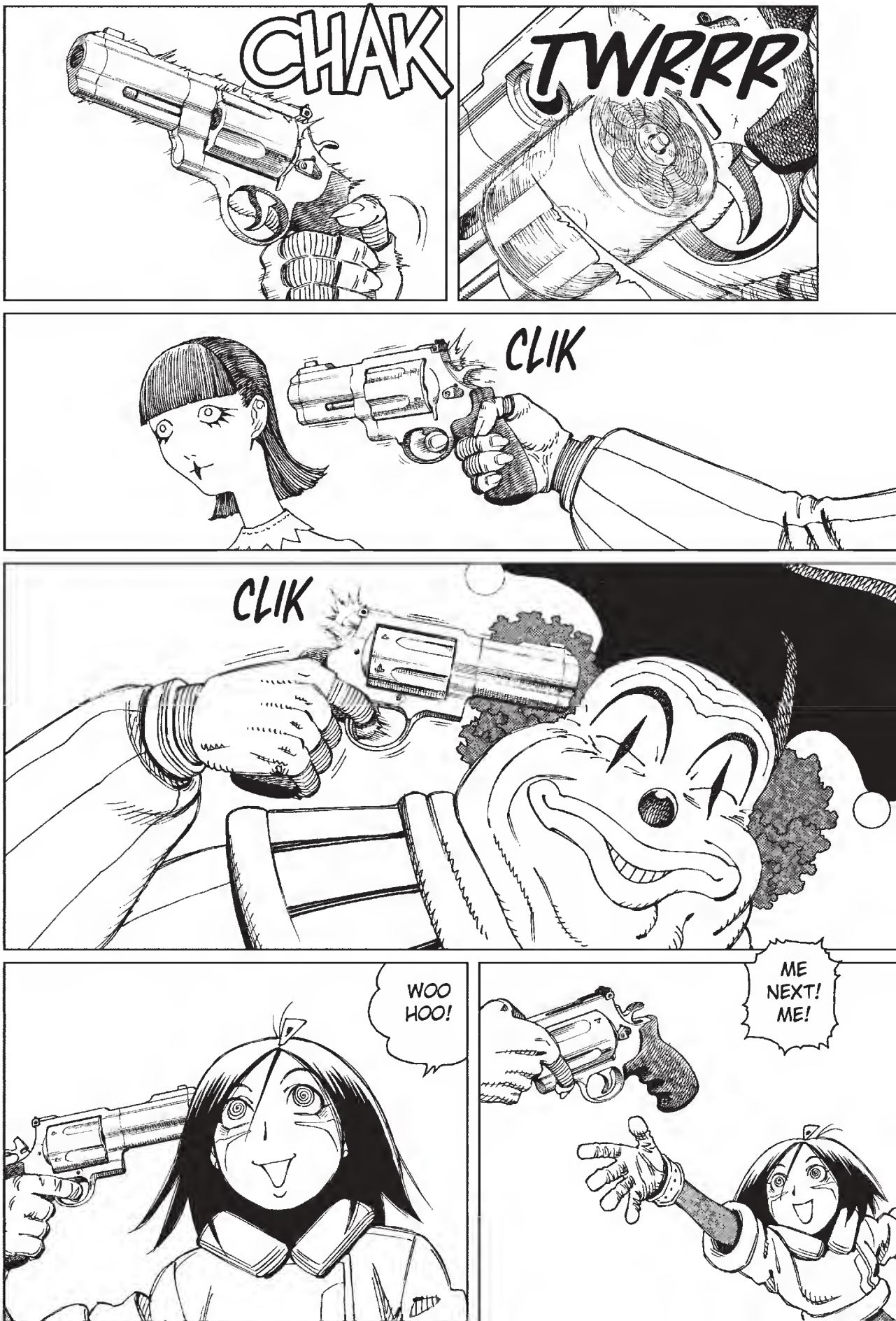

PLOP
PLUP
HEY, IS THIS OUR FIRST VICTORY?
HE UP AND DIED ALL BY HIMSELF.
HUH? BUT WE WERE JUST...?
LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE REPLAY.
WHAT CAN EX-PLAIN THIS THRILLING FINISH!
TWENTY-FOUR MIN. AND THIRTY SEC. INTO THE MATCH AND IT'S OVER!


DARBHANGA'S ROPE SHOULD'VE BEEN CHASING THEM BUT THE TWO ALITA'S HAVEN'T BUDGED AN INCH.
FIVE MINUTES ...
AND NOW DHARBANGA HAS DRAWN HIS SWORD AS HE BEGINS TO SNEAK UP ON THEM!
TWENTY ...
IT LOOKS LIKE HE GOT CAUGHT IN THE MONOMO-LECULAR TRAP THEY LAID. HOW STUPID!
GYAAA!
...
WELL... THE END WAS LAME THOUGH.
WHAT AN ASTOUNDING FEAT OF MAGIC!
SO I GUESS THAT MEANS HE HAD HAS *ALL* UNDER MASS HYPNOSIS.

NAH...THE GIRLS ARE JUST PLAYING AROUND!
...
FWAK
AW, TOO BAD!
WHAT'S THIS? THE GIRLS ARE GATHERING DARBHANGA'S DISMEMBERED CORPSE...
HOCUS POCUS!
WILL HE COME OUT IN ONE PIECE?
ZWOOP
SPOING!
WING!

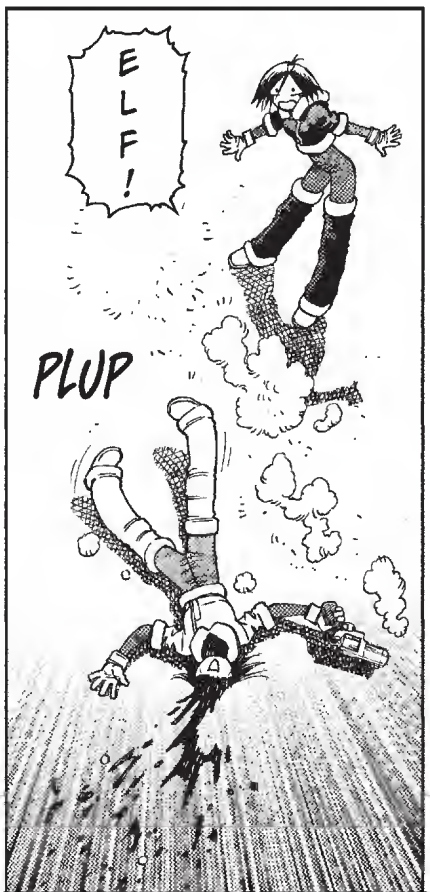

I AM SPRING-FOOT JACK, CANNIBAL CLOWN OF THE STARSHIP CULT!
...AND THIS IS MY LOVELY ASSISTANT, LILY.
I'VE HEARD TELL OF YOUR EXPLOITS MANY A TIME!
I'M SURE HAVING SERIOUS BATTLES ONE AFTER THE OTHER MUST BE TIRESOME! BETTER TO HAVE FUN AND ENJOY LIFE!

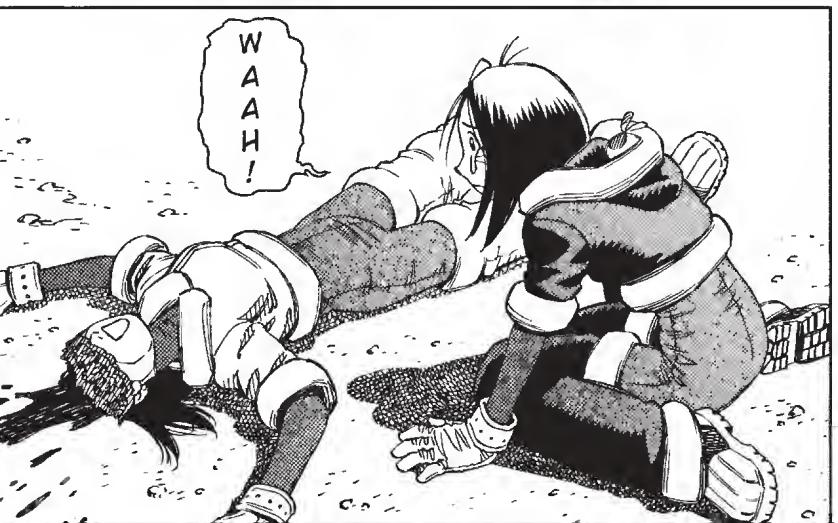
OOH, YES!
HOW ABOUT TAKING A BREAK WITH A LITTLE GAME?
SUCH SPIRIT! I'M SO THRILLED!
AGREED!
IT'S A TEST OF LUCK!
CLAK
THE RULES ARE A SNAP!
500 MAGNUM

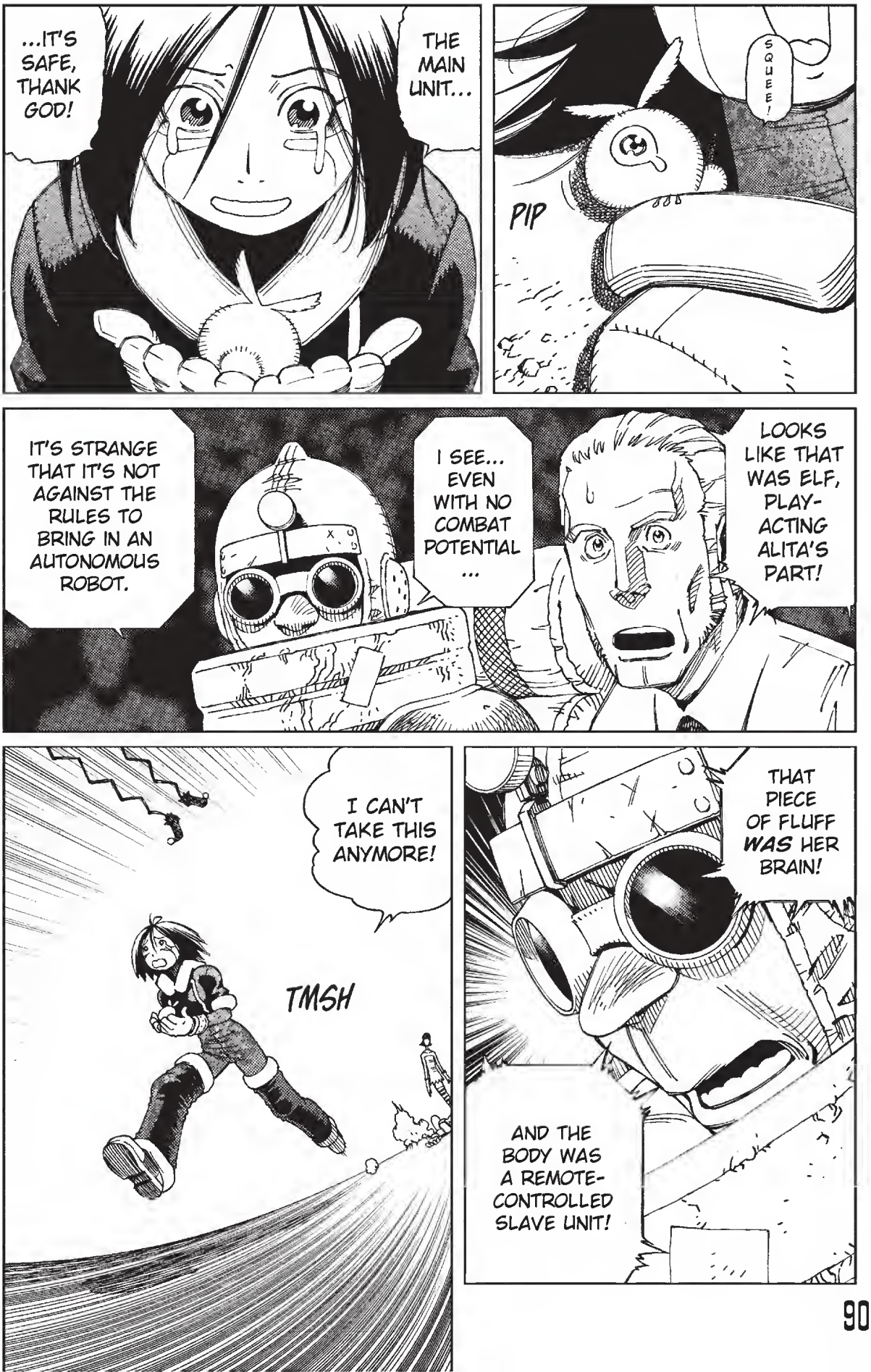

CHAK
TWRRR
CLIK
CLIK
WOO HOO!
ME NEXT! ME!

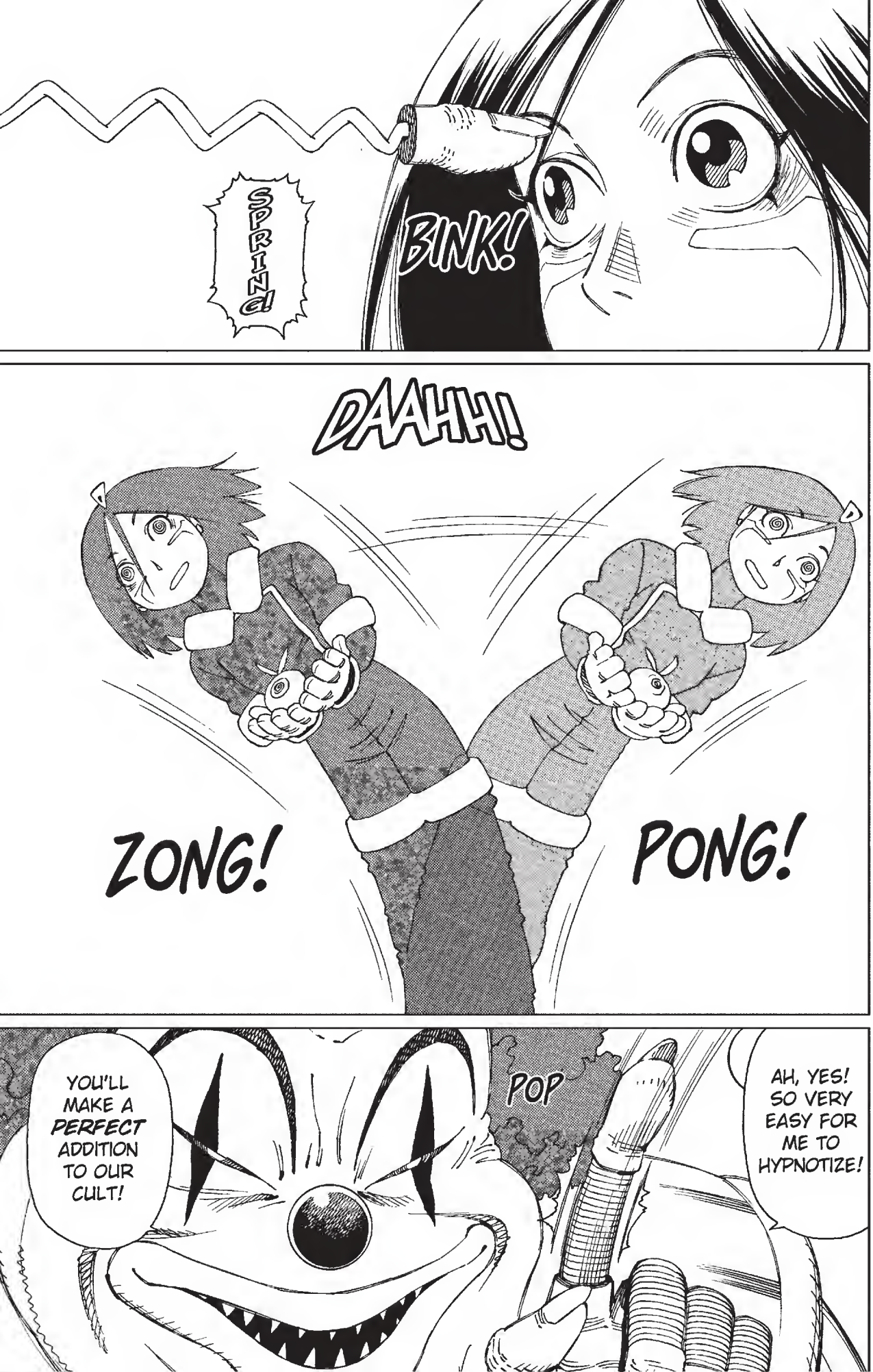
BLAM!

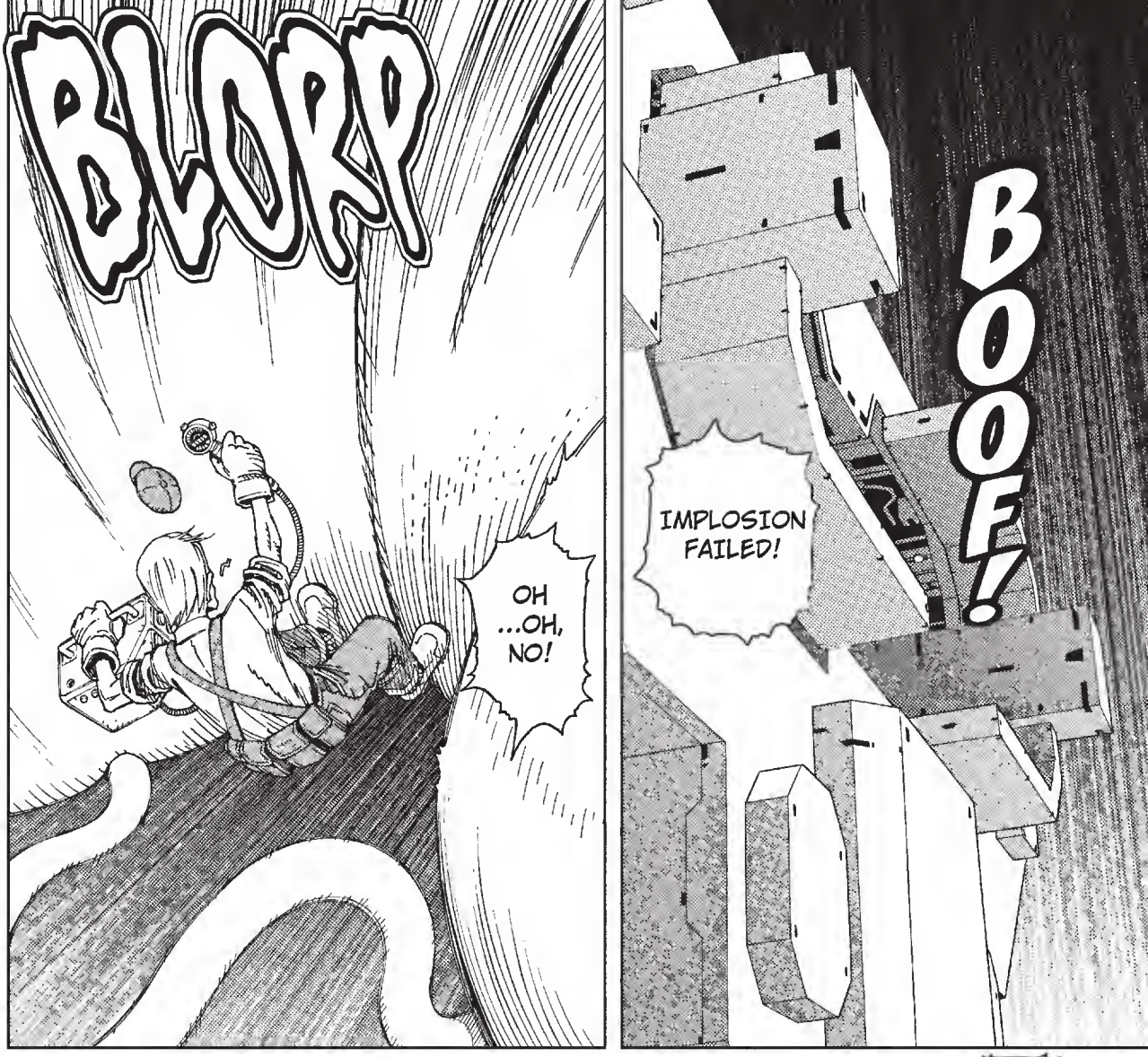
OH, NO! IT SEEMS THAT WHITE ALITA HAS JUST *DIED* IN A GAME OF RUSSIAN ROULETTE!

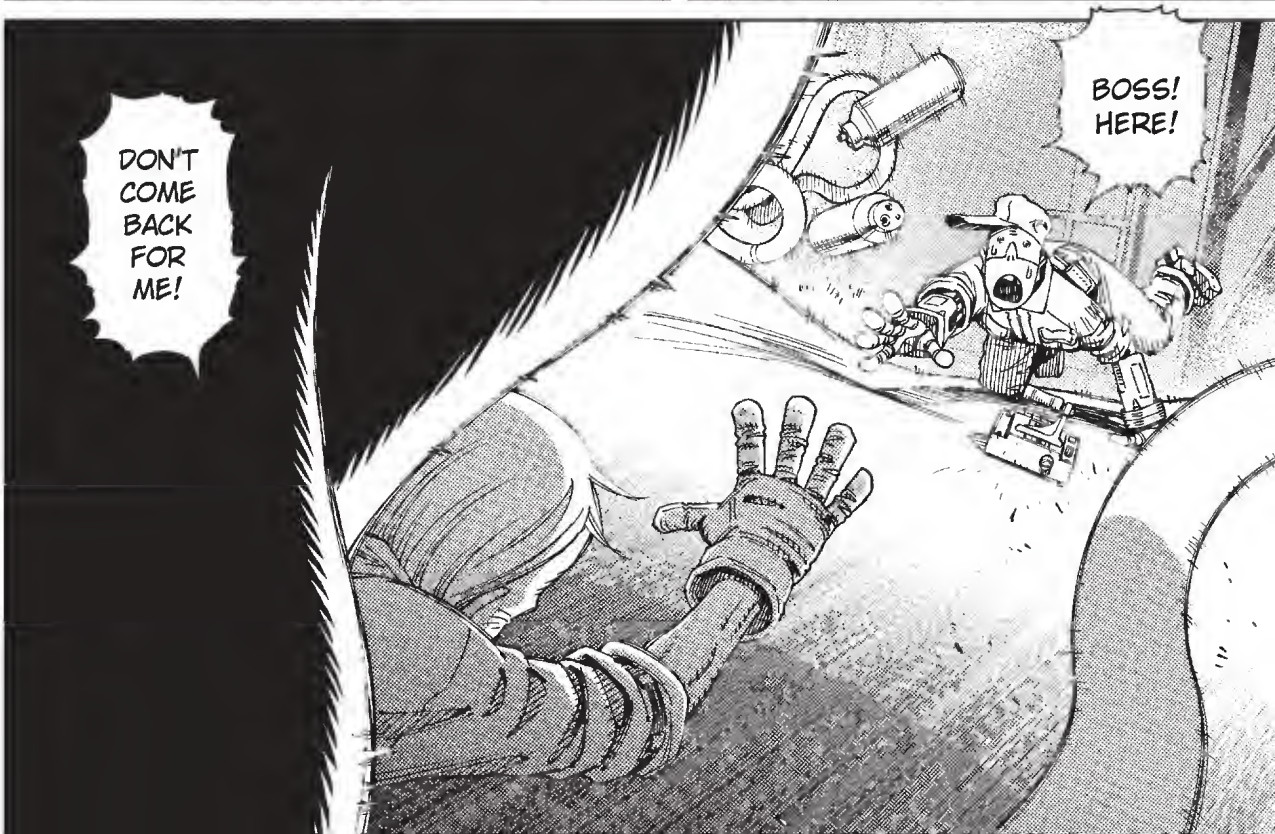

E L F !
PLUP

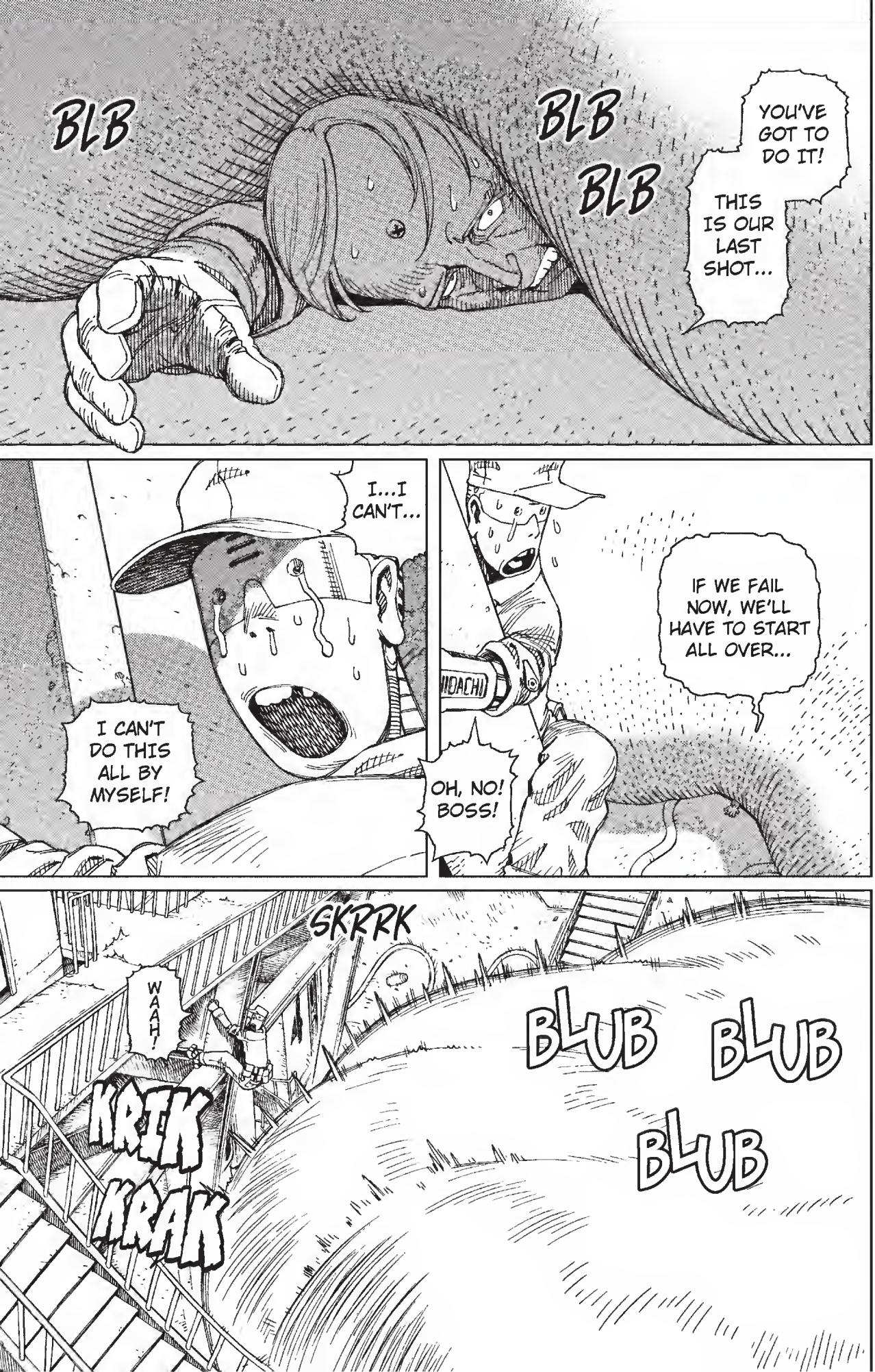

W A A H !

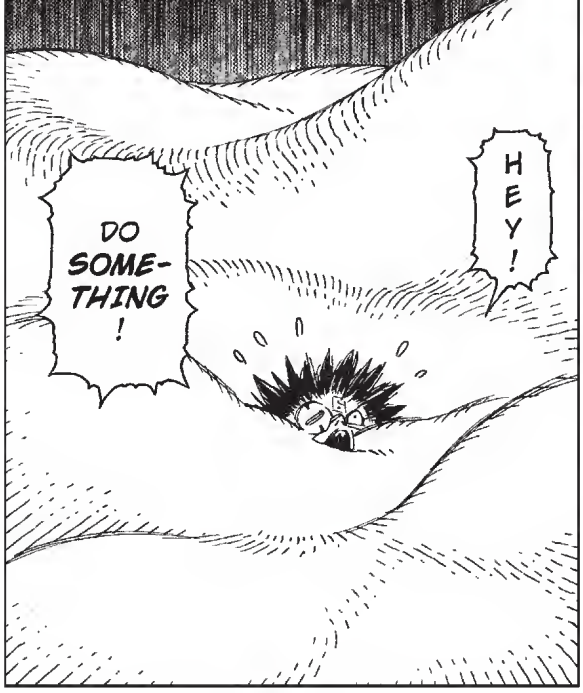

...IT'S SAFE, THANK GOD!
THE MAIN UNIT...
SQUEE!
PIP
IT'S STRANGE THAT IT'S NOT AGAINST THE RULES TO BRING IN AN AUTONOMOUS ROBOT.
I SEE... EVEN WITH NO COMBAT POTENTIAL ...
LOOKS LIKE THAT WAS ELF, PLAY-ACTING ALITA'S PART!
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE!
TMSH
THAT PIECE OF FLUFF *WAS* HER BRAIN!
AND THE BODY WAS A REMOTE-CONTROLLED SLAVE UNIT!

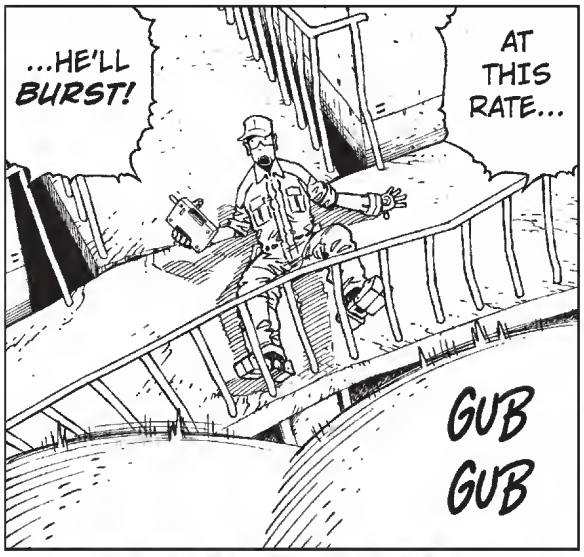

SPRING!
BINK!
DAAHH!
ZONG!
PONG!
YOU'LL MAKE A *PERFECT* ADDITION TO OUR CULT!
POP
AH, YES! SO VERY EASY FOR ME TO HYPNOTIZE!

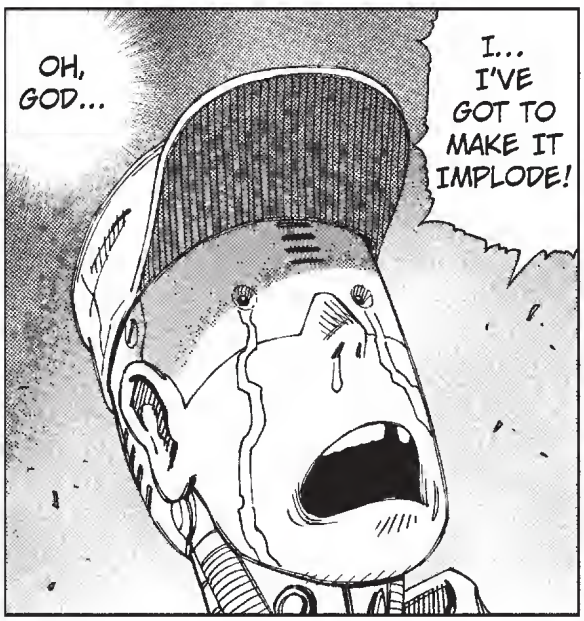

BLORP
OH ...OH, NO!
BOOF!
IMPLOSION FAILED!

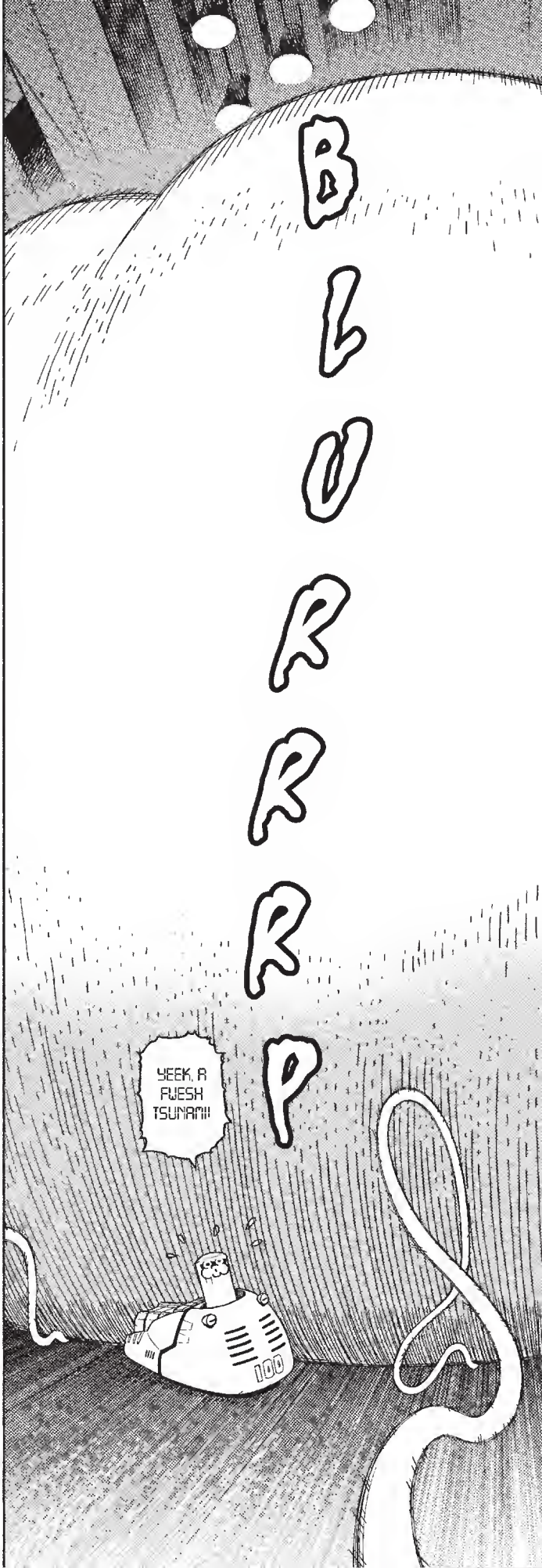

DON'T COME BACK FOR ME!
BOSS! HERE!

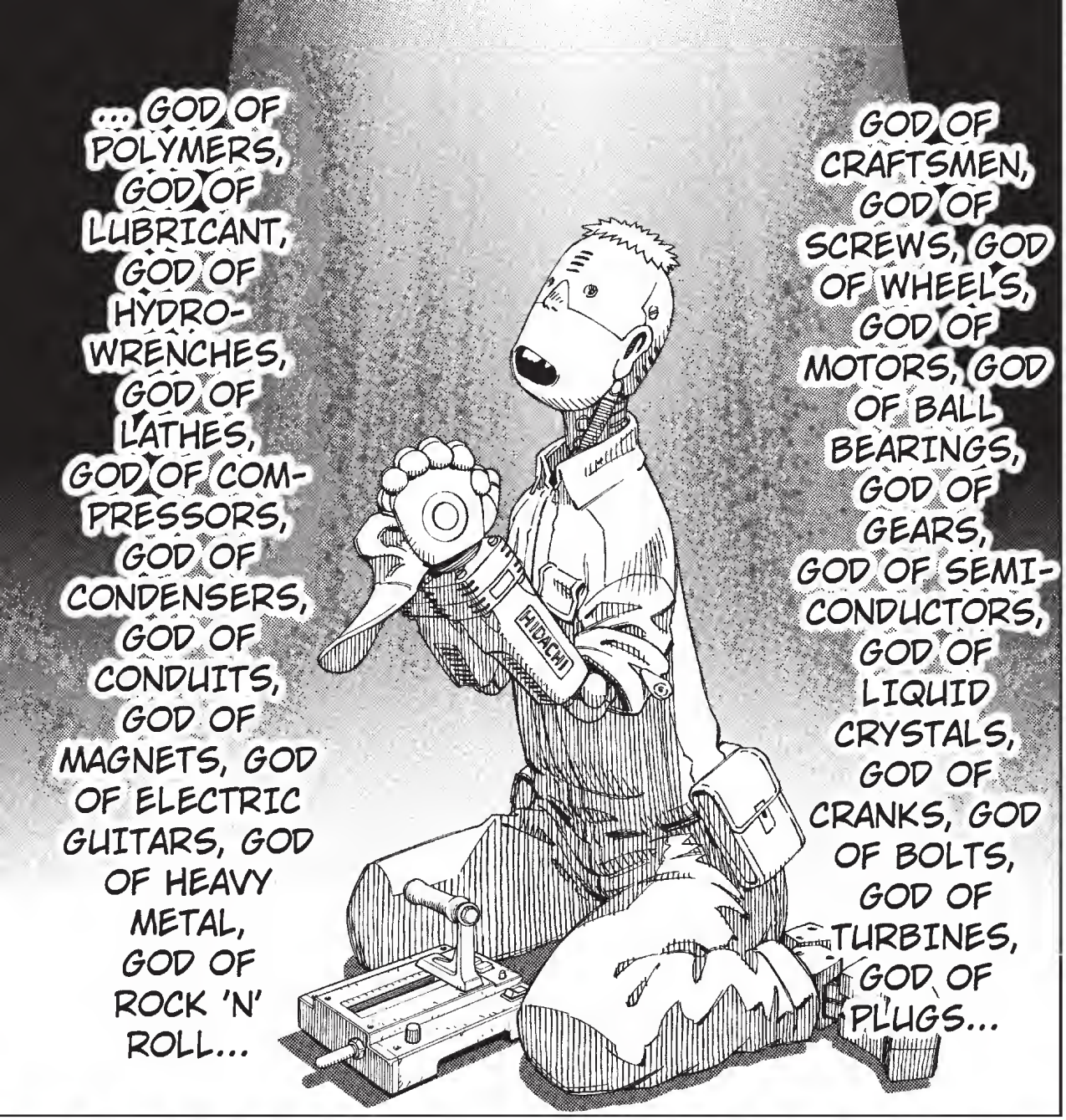

BLB
BLB
BLB
YOU'VE GOT TO DO IT!
THIS IS OUR LAST SHOT...
I...I CAN'T...
I CAN'T DO THIS ALL BY MYSELF!
IF WE FAIL NOW, WE'LL HAVE TO START ALL OVER...
OH, NO! BOSS!
SKRRK
WAAH!
KRIK KRAK
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB

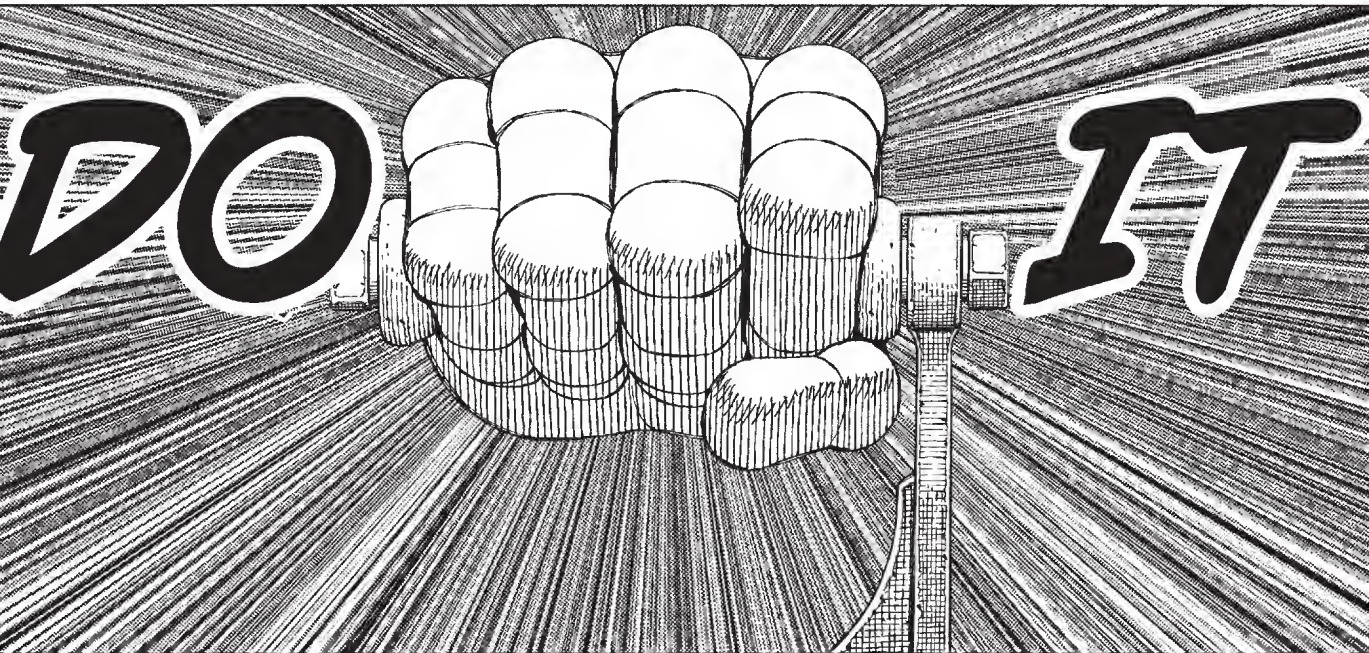

HEY!
DO SOME-THING!

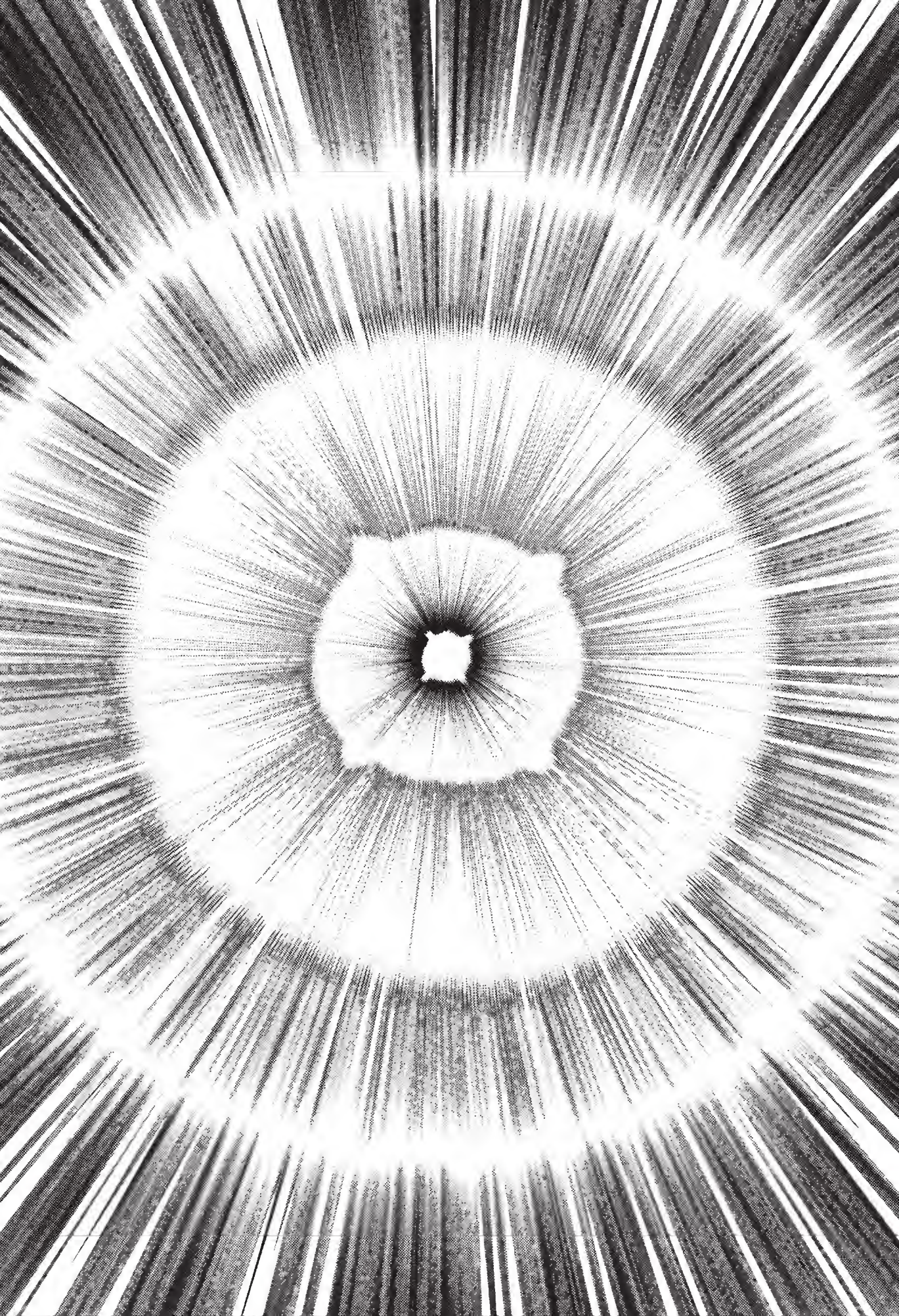

AT THIS RATE...
...HE'LL BURST!
GUB GUB

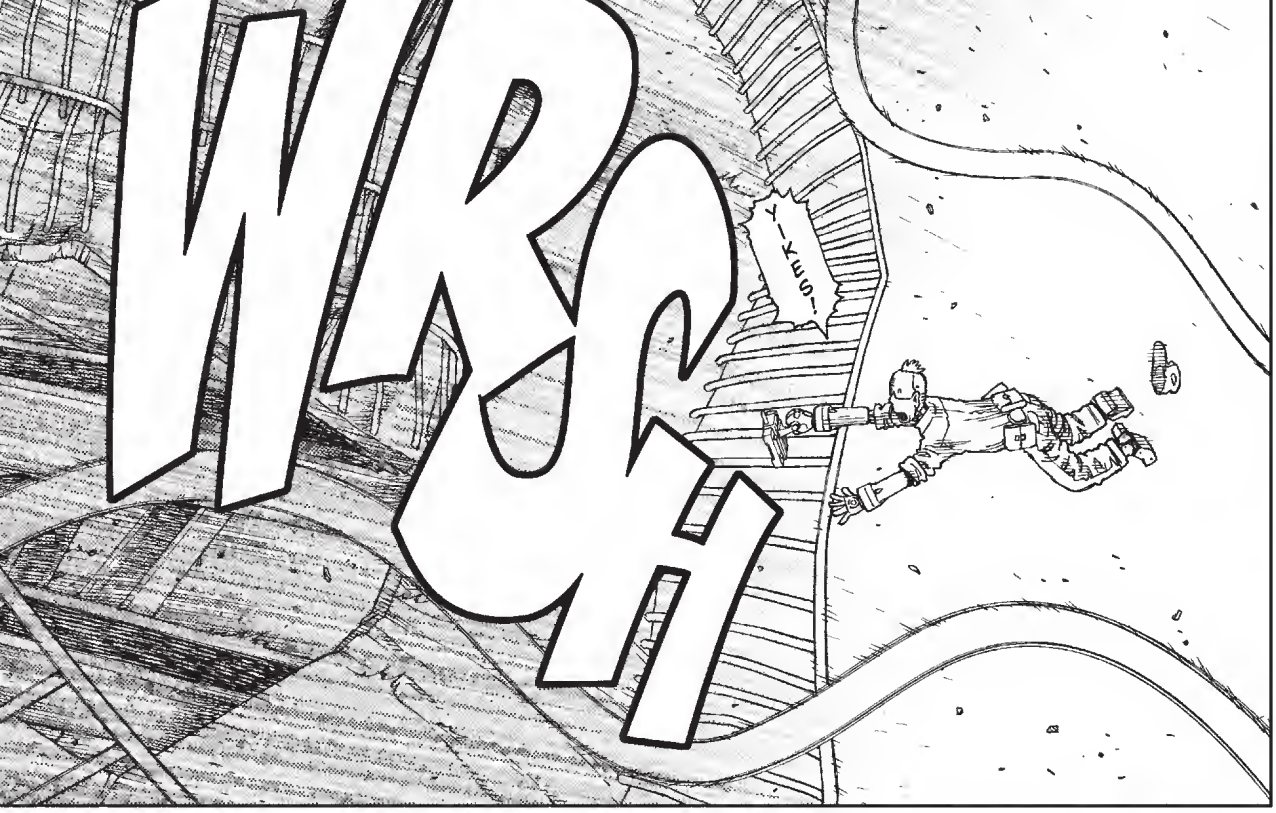

I... I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT IMPLODE!
OH, GOD...

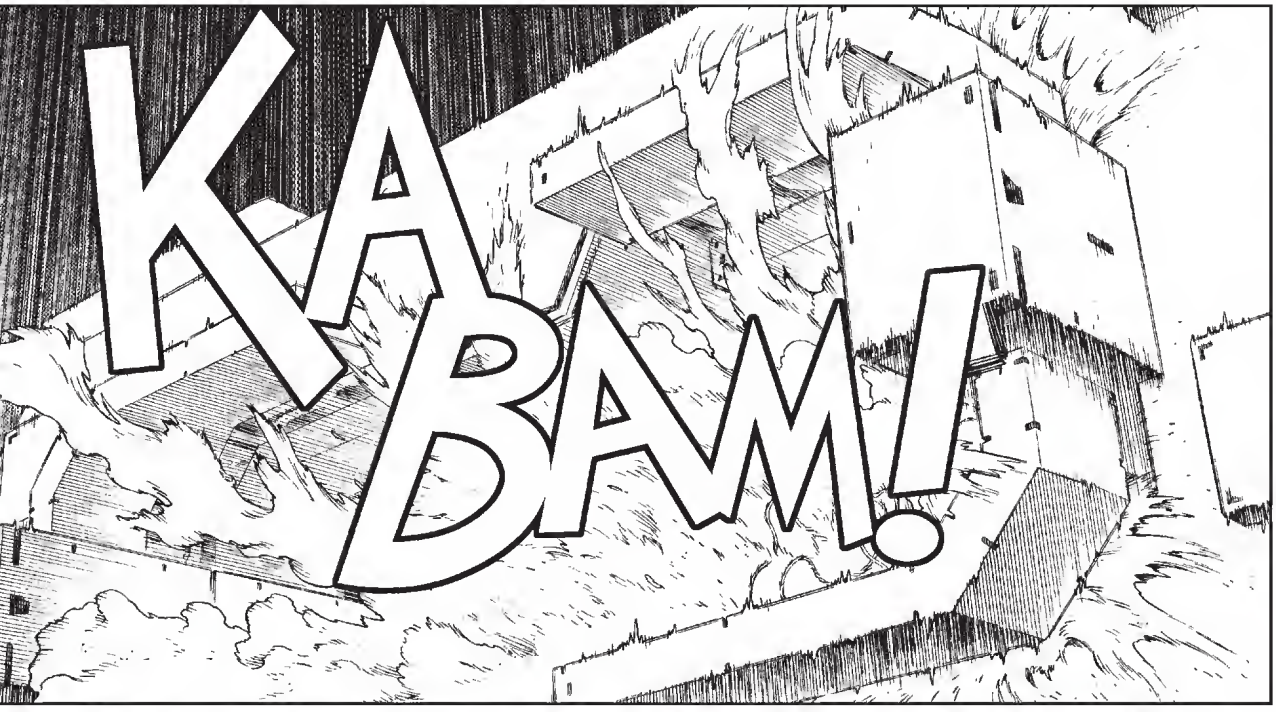

BLURRRRP
YEEK, A FWESH TSUNAMI!

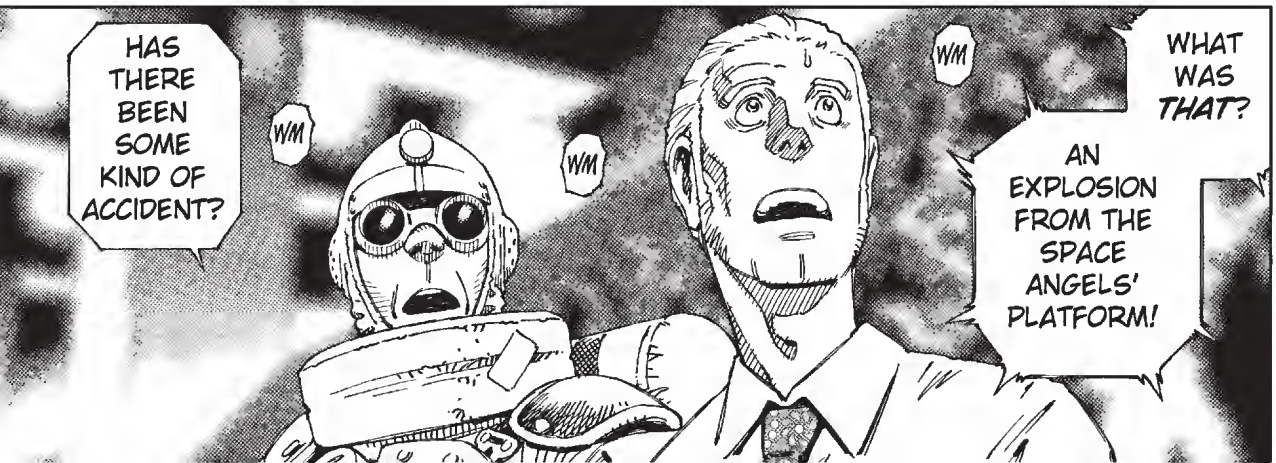

... GOD OF POLYMERS, GOD OF LUBRICANT, GOD OF HYDRO-WRENCHES, GOD OF LATHES, GOD OF COMPRESSORS, GOD OF CONDENSERS, GOD OF CONDUITS, GOD OF MAGNETS, GOD OF ELECTRIC GUITARS, GOD OF HEAVY METAL, GOD OF ROCK 'N' ROLL...
GOD OF CRAFTSMEN, GOD OF SCREWS, GOD OF WHEELS, GOD OF MOTORS, GOD OF BALL BEARINGS, GOD OF GEARS, GOD OF SEMI-CONDUCTORS, GOD OF LIQUID CRYSTALS, GOD OF CRANKS, GOD OF BOLTS, GOD OF TURBINES, GOD OF PLUGS...
HITACHI


DO IT

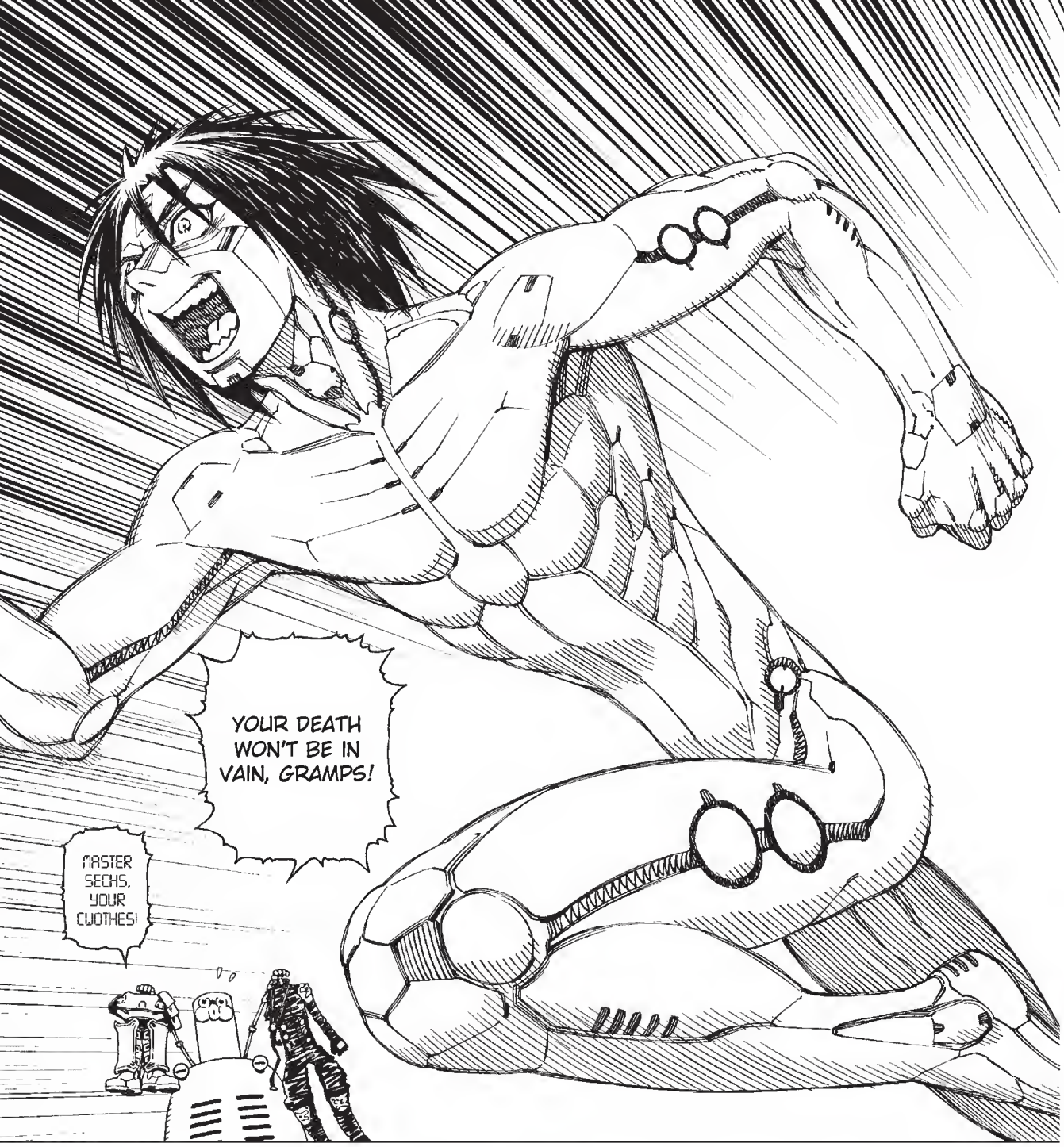


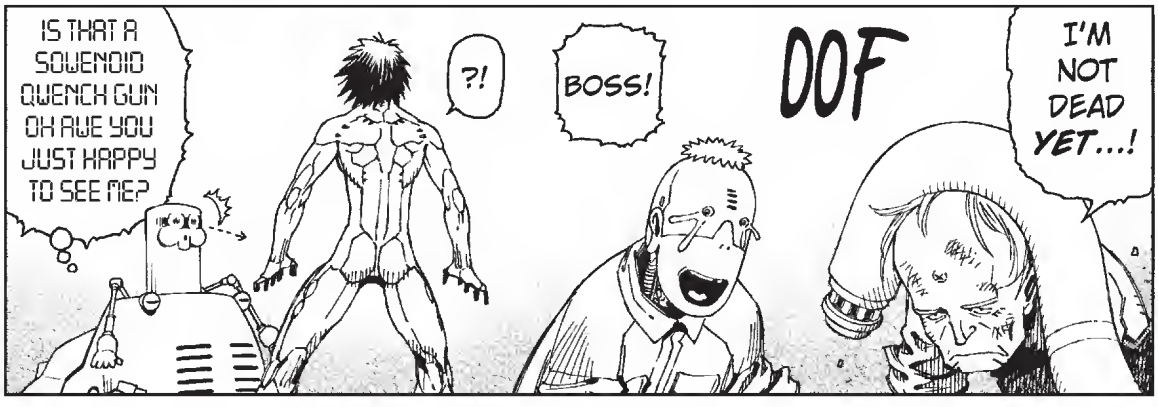

WRSH
Y—KWSH!


KA-BAM!


HAS THERE BEEN SOME KIND OF ACCIDENT?
WM
WM
WM
WHAT WAS *THAT*?
AN EXPLOSION FROM THE SPACE ANGELS' PLATFORM!

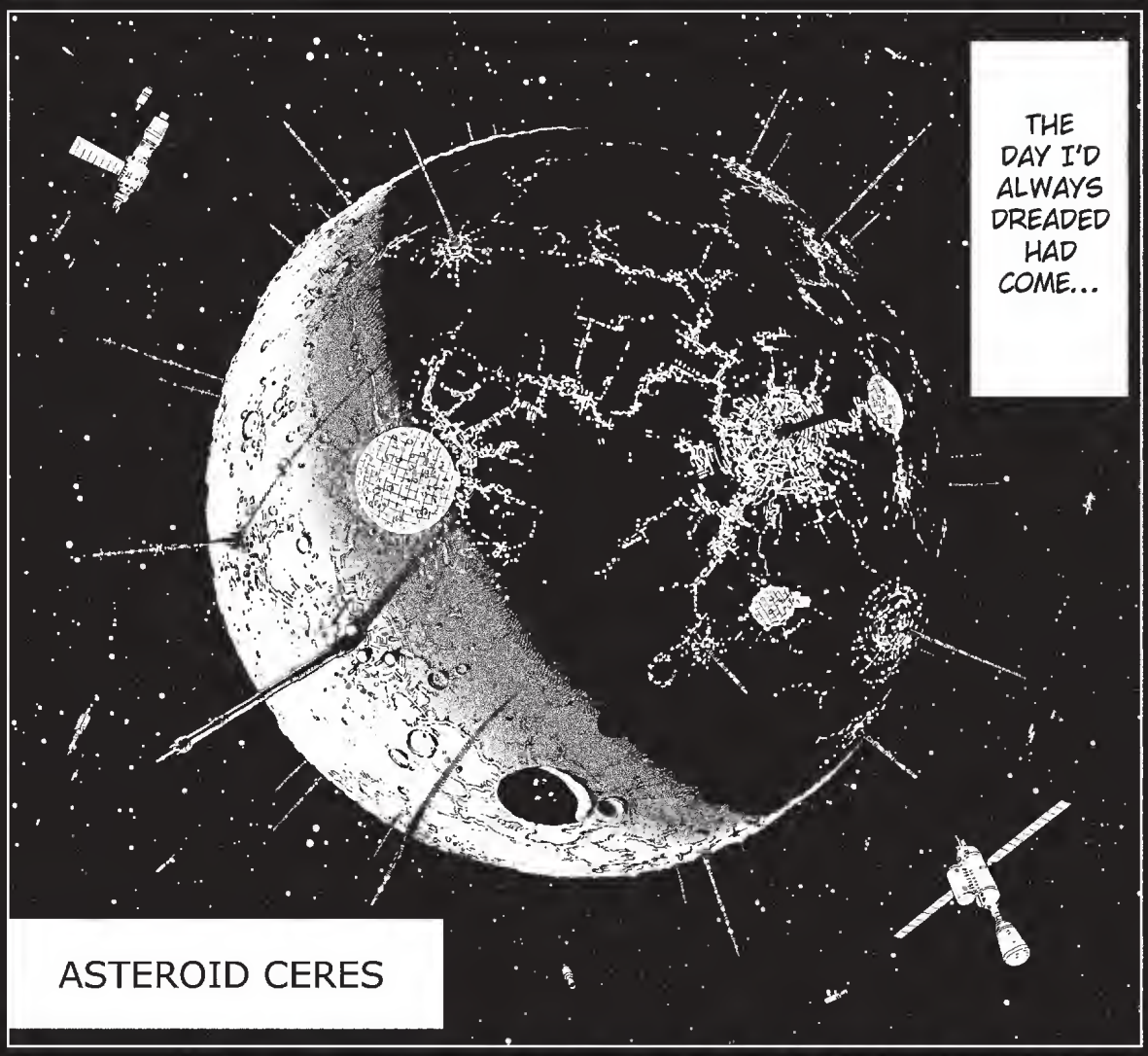
FSHHHH
I CAN FEEL THE POWER BURSTING INSIDE OF ME! COOL!
WOW!
OOH
KRIK
KREK
THE SUPER FIZZIROY BODY IS COM-PLETE!
SUCCESS!
HIDACHI

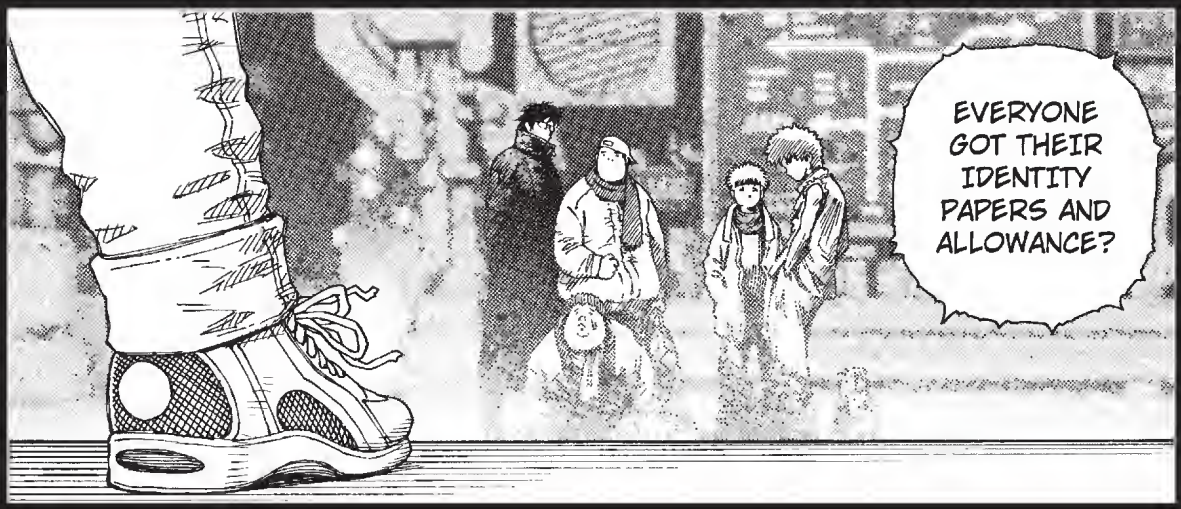

YOUR DEATH WON'T BE IN VAIN, GRAMPS!
MASTER SECKS, YOUR CWOTHES!


IS THAT A SOWENOID QWENCH GUN OH AWE YOU JUST HAPPY TO SEE ME?
?!
BOSS!
DOF
I'M NOT DEAD YET...!

PHASE 41:
The Greatest Moment of My Life!

(An excerpt from Molonev Menhir's diary)
March 20, ES 560

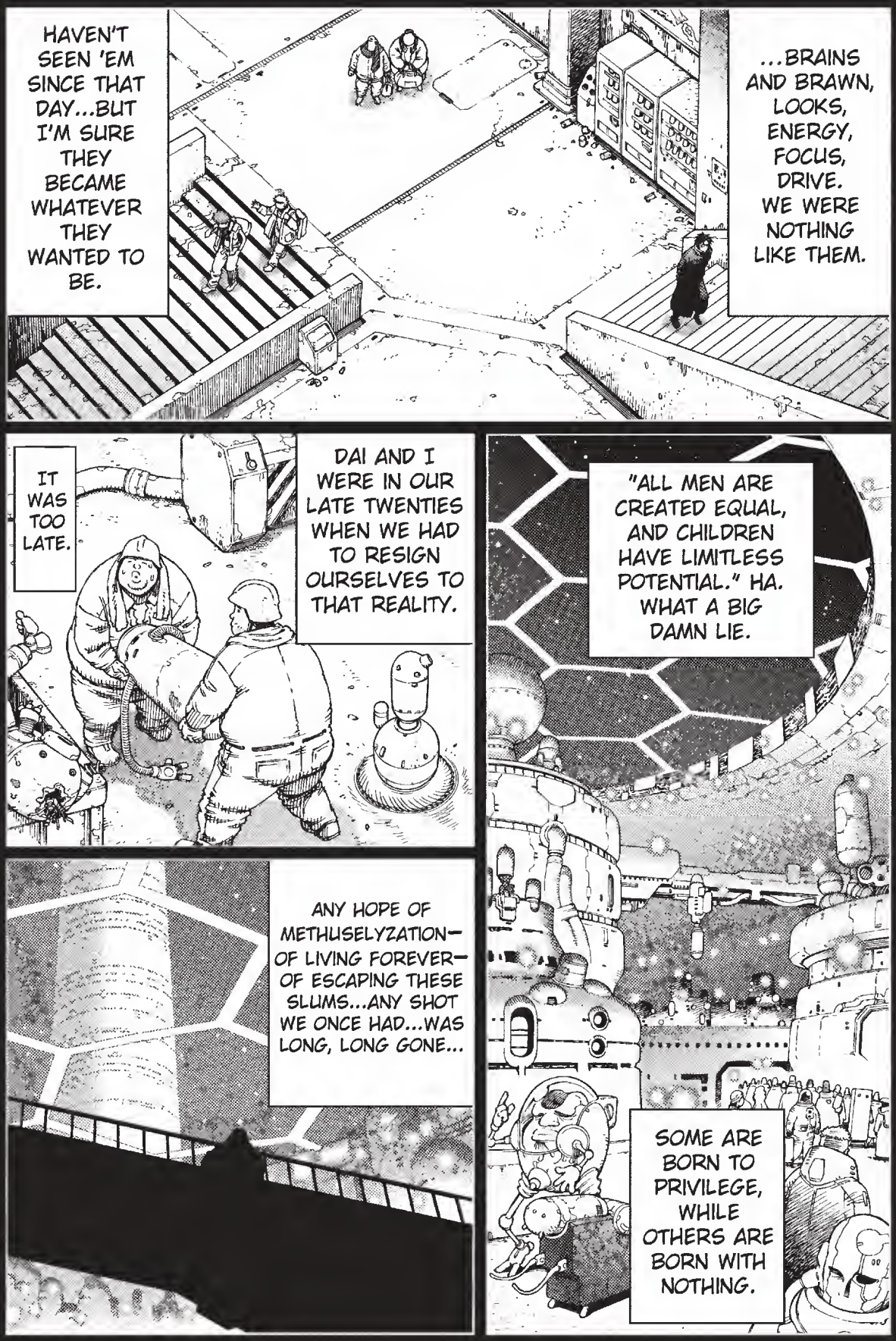




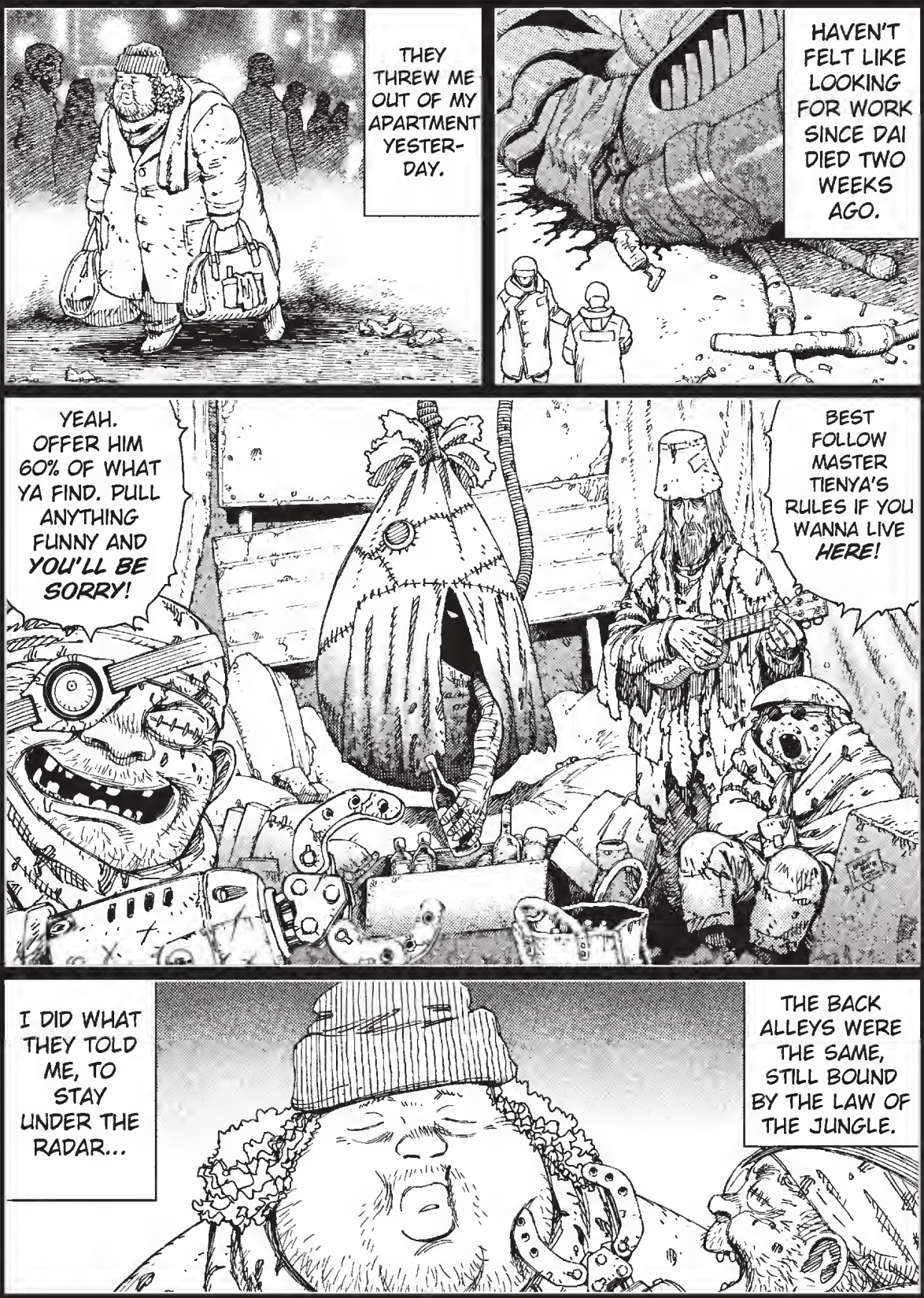
NOW, MOLONEV... YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP...
SNFF!
MOMMY! DON'T LEAVE ME!
SO BE BRAVE AND LIVE STRONG!
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER. THEY SAY A MAN HAS SEVEN ENEMIES AS SOON AS HE LEAVES HOME...
S.N.S. Guntroll Captain Qu Tsang
BE WELL, ALL OF YOU!
TODAY YOU ARE A GRADUATE OF THE STELLAR NURSERY SOCIETY!

***Last name:** S.N.S custom is to assign last names to unidentified orphans according to where they were found. "Terracotta" for those found on a planet, "Argento" for moons, "Pimiento" for space colonies, and "Menhir" for asteroids. As a result, there are many instances of orphans with the same last names despite having no blood relation.*

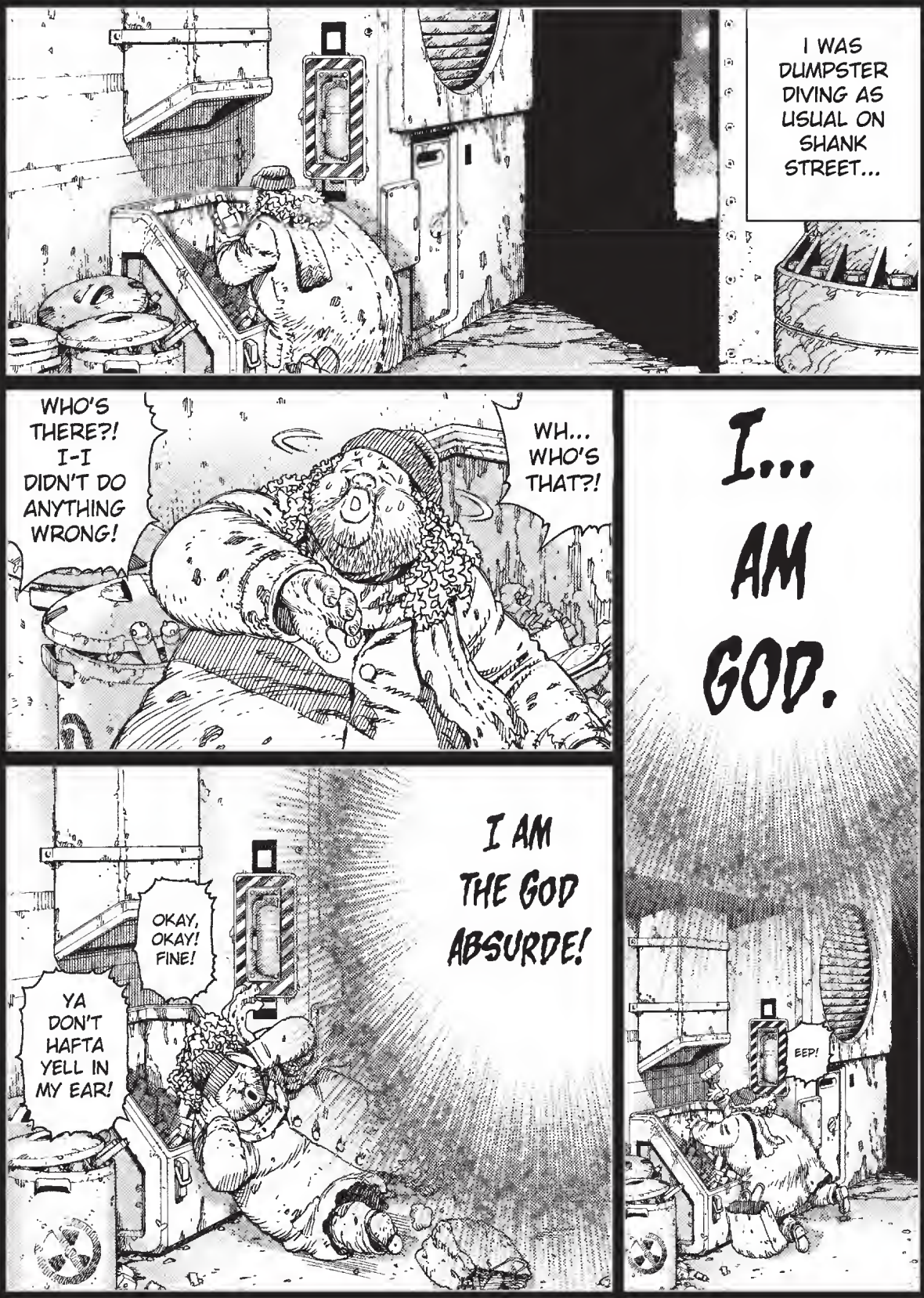
__Szeged:__ An asteroid and the location of S.N.S headquarters that can be found in the Hungarian region asteroid belt. See __Last Order Omnibus__, Volume 2.

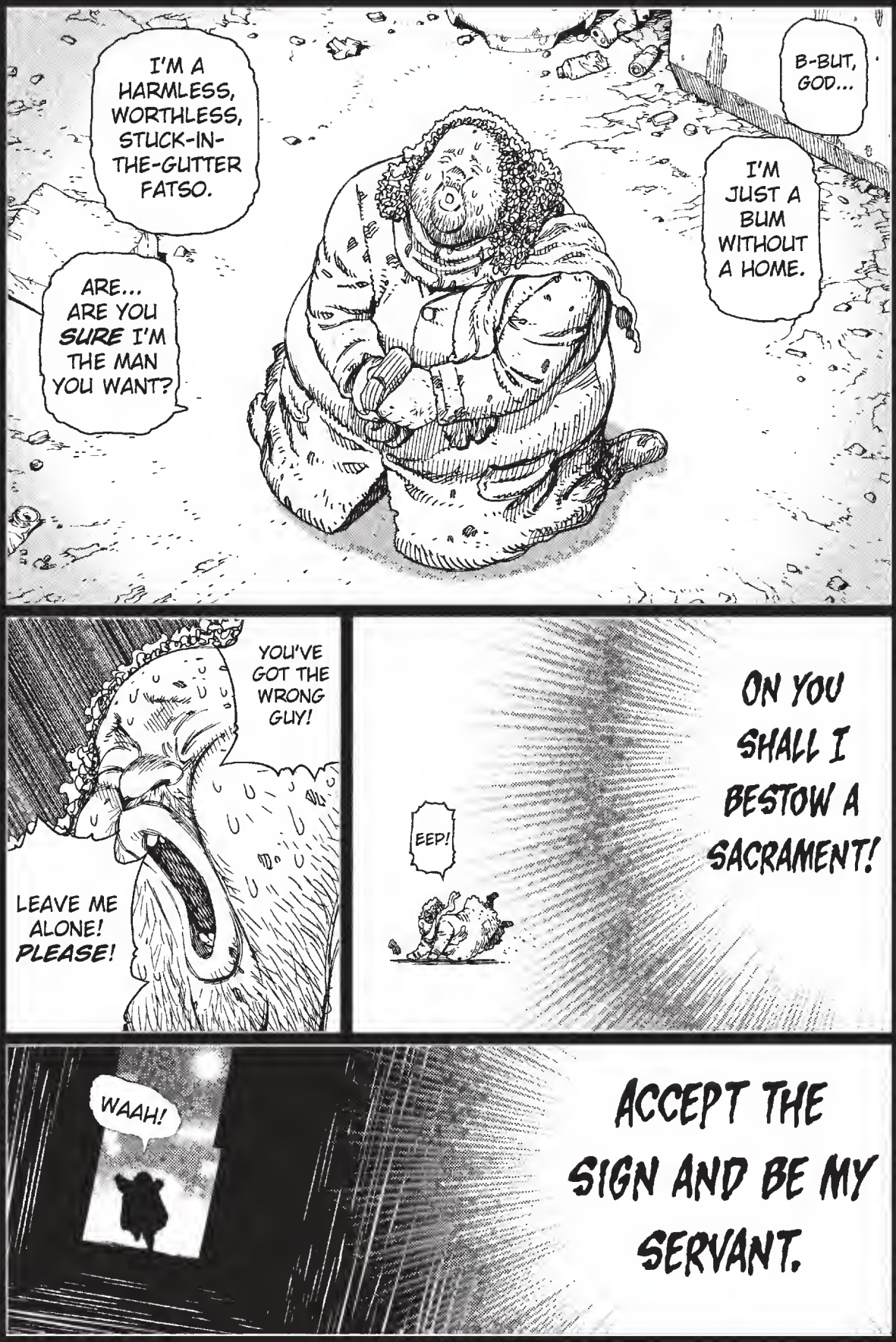

HAVEN'T SEEN 'EM SINCE THAT DAY...BUT I'M SURE THEY BECAME WHATEVER THEY WANTED TO BE.
...BRAINS AND BRAWN, LOOKS, ENERGY, FOCUS, DRIVE. WE WERE NOTHING LIKE THEM.
IT WAS TOO LATE.
DAI AND I WERE IN OUR LATE TWENTIES WHEN WE HAD TO RESIGN OURSELVES TO THAT REALITY.
"ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, AND CHILDREN HAVE LIMITLESS POTENTIAL." HA. WHAT A BIG DAMN LIE.
ANY HOPE OF METHUSELYZATION— OF LIVING FOREVER— OF ESCAPING THESE SLUMS...ANY SHOT WE ONCE HAD...WAS LONG, LONG GONE...
SOME ARE BORN TO PRIVILEGE, WHILE OTHERS ARE BORN WITH NOTHING.

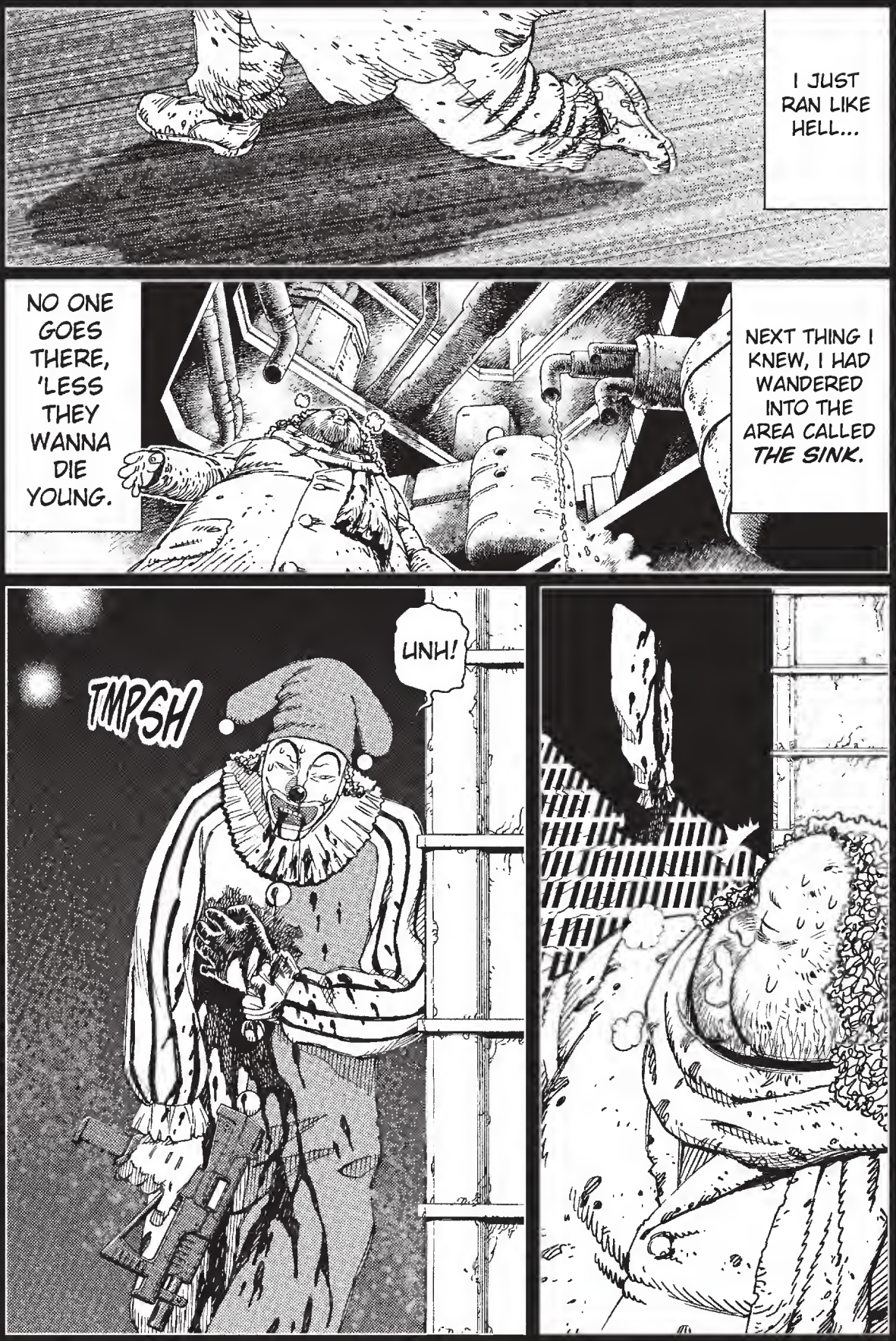
September 4, ES 575



November 2, ES 577



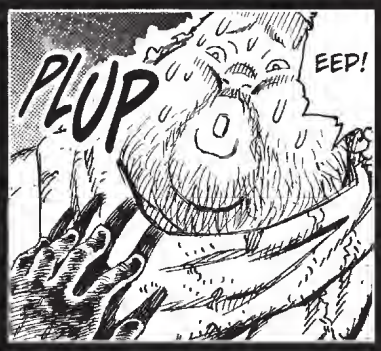

I'M A HARMLESS, WORTHLESS, STUCK-IN-THE-GUTTER FATSO.
B-BUT, GOD...
I'M JUST A BUM WITHOUT A HOME.
ARE... ARE YOU *SURE* I'M THE MAN YOU WANT?
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG GUY!
LEAVE ME ALONE! *PLEASE!*
EEP!
ON YOU SHALL I BESTOW A SACRAMENT!
WAAH!
ACCEPT THE SIGN AND BE MY SERVANT.

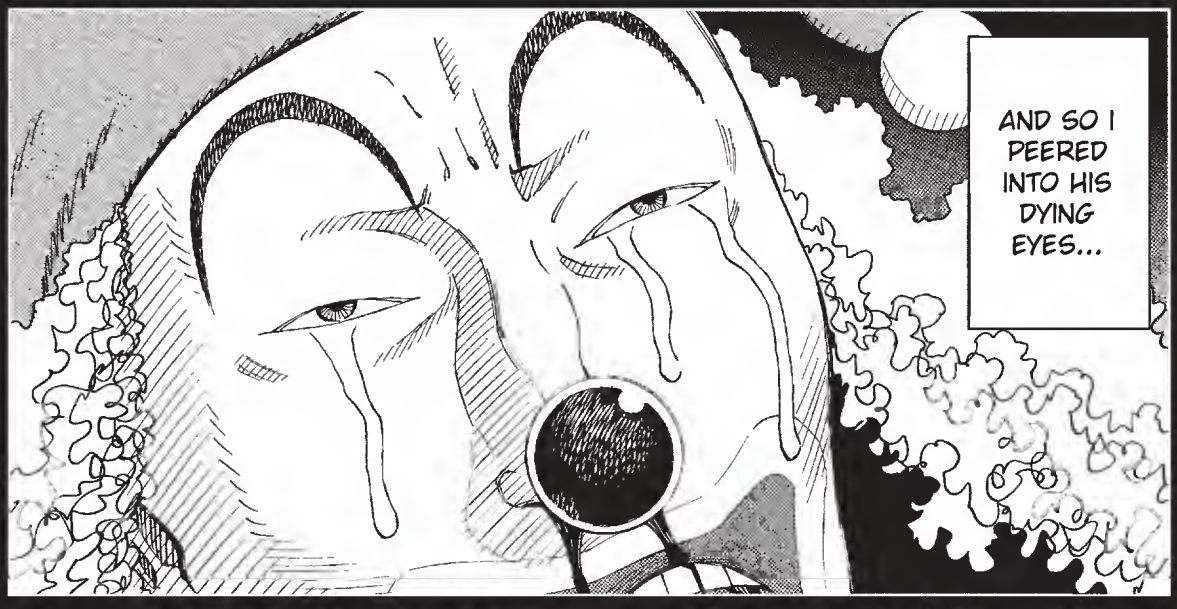

I JUST RAN LIKE HELL...
NO ONE GOES THERE, 'LESS THEY WANNA DIE YOUNG.
NEXT THING I KNEW, I HAD WANDERED INTO THE AREA CALLED THE SINK.
UNH!
THPSH

...THAT GOD HAD SENT HIM TO AWAKEN ME.

...BUT I KNEW, EVEN THEN...

I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT DYING CLOWN WAS...





...AND I RECEIVED *THE SIGN!*

PRESENT DAY (ES 591)
Z.O.T.T. ROUND TWO
IS THAT...? YES! OUR OLD PAL SECHS IS BACK!

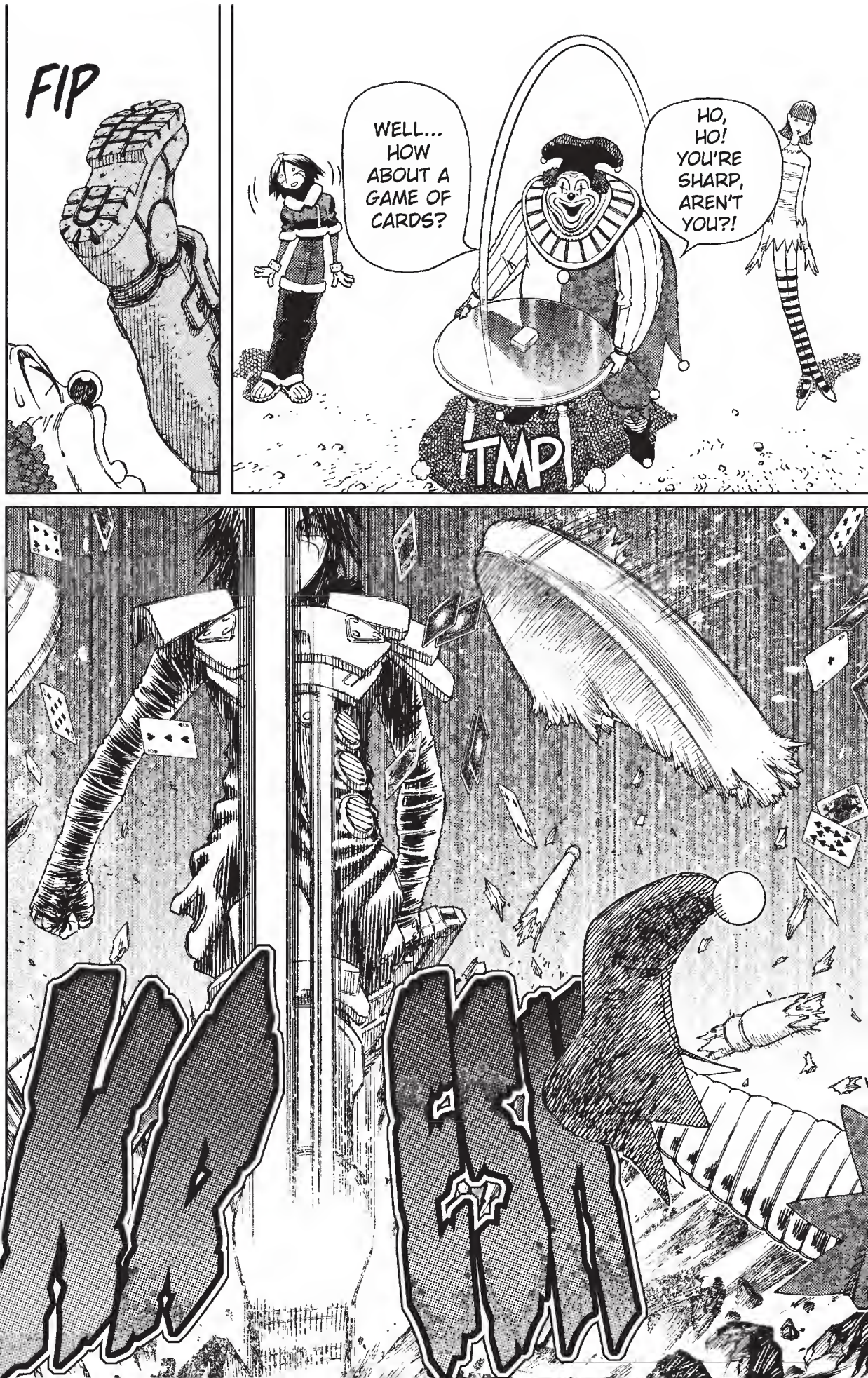
SECHS INFLICTED THE MOST DAMAGE IN THE GUN-TROLL MATCH, BUT WAS ALSO THE MOST GRIEVOUSLY INJURED!
LOOKS LIKE HE'S BACK IN ACTION!
AH! I KNEW IT...
WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?
CHAK
YEE... YIPE?!
fwip

BLAM
BLAM
BLA
M
BL
AH!!

ANOTHER ROUND? THERE SHOULD'VE BEEN ONLY ONE SHOT IN THAT GUN!
RAAH
UH... WHAT THE—?!
OH, NO! WILL SECHS FOLLOW IN ELF'S FOOTSTEPS ?!

HEH

***Hollow point:** A bullet with a hollow tip, designed to expand upon entering a body to increase soft-tissue damage.*


FIP
WELL... HOW ABOUT A GAME OF CARDS?
HO, HO! YOU'RE SHARP, AREN'T YOU?!
TMP

WHAT A LET DOWN!
AFTER THE GUNTTROLLS, I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO *TOUGHER* OPPONENTS...
INSTEAD I GET *THIS* BUNCHA LOSERS?
GO HOME, CLOWN BOY!
BRING OUT YOUR CAPTAIN!
...

IF ONLY YOU HADN'T INTRUDED.
I COULD'VE BEEN PLAYING WITH THE GUNTROLLS NOW.
SEEMS WE'VE BOTH BEEN LET DOWN.
ALL I WANTED WAS FOR MOMMY TO SEE HER SON ALL GROWN UP.
SNPT
I DON'T NEED TO.
YOU COULDN'T EVEN DEFEAT THEIR MONKEY!
Ook?
YOU USED TO BE ONE OF THOSE GUNTROLL BRATS, HUH?
OH, I GET IT...
NO WAY!
THAT MONKEY IS YOUR MOTHER?
"MOM" —?
SHAAA

hmm
YOU WERE NO MATCH FOR TSANG BEFORE, BUT NOW YOU WANNA REMATCH, EH?
THE WAY HE FEELS ...
MUST BE KINDA LIKE THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT HER...
WHO BETTER TO SHOW THEM HOW LUDICROUS THEIR GOALS ARE THAN— ME!
BYOING!
THE FUTURE IS SO BLEAK FOR KIDS!
NO, NOT AT ALL.
GRR
SHING!
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS COMEDY ROUTINE!
YOU'RE REALLY PISSING ME OFF!
WE'RE NOTHING ALIKE!

KLANG
WHAT IN THE-?!
MEET LILY... ALSO KNOWN AS THE HUMAN SWORD!
KREK
KRIK
SUCH IS THE MYSTERY OF THE HUMAN BODY!

BUT TO ENDURE A SLASH THAT EXCEEDS A FLESH BODY'S PHYSICAL STRENGTH...!
IT PROBABLY WORKS ALONG THE SAME LINES AS THE HUMAN BRIDGE— A FORM OF CATALEPSY SEEN IN MAGIC SHOWS.
OOH
SECHS'S SLASH, BLOCKED BY LILY'S FLESH?!
THIS IS AMAZING!
A SWORD STICKING UP OUT OF AN ANVIL!
TEK
KREK
I AM A SWORD.
SWORD.
I WISH I COULD'VE SEEN MOMMY'S FACE WHEN I USE THIS TRICK ON LILY. SIGH...
BUT...
HEH, HEH... LIKE ME, LILY IS AN S.N.S. ORPHAN.
URP!
SKR RK
POP
LET'S NOT GET TOO SERIOUS!
NOIP!

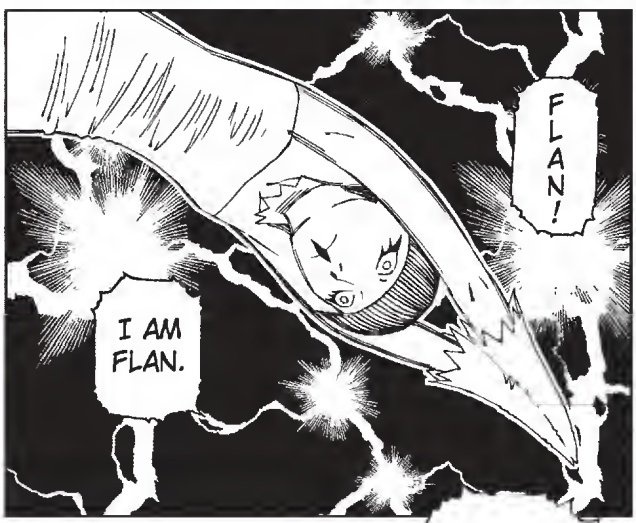
TA-DA!
MAKE ME A HUMAN BOOMERANG, GIRL!
KLONG!
WUP!
EVERY DATA CLOUD HAS A TITANIUM LINING!
FWNG!

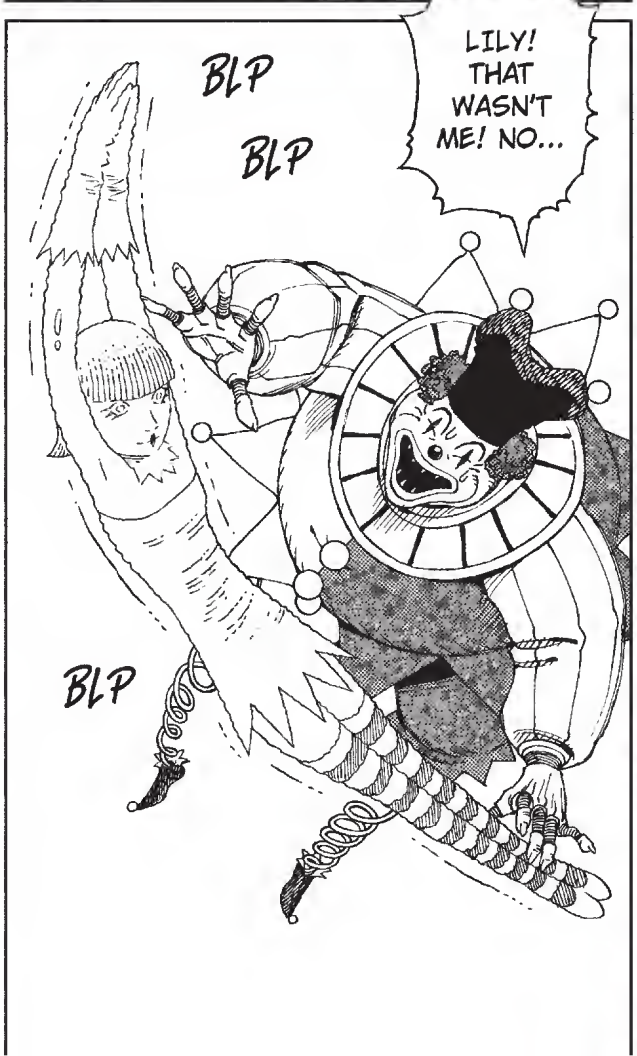
KAT
G!
DAMN IT! HOW STUPID OF ME...
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE DUMBSTRUCK!
ZOOM!
ZAH
ZAH
ZAH

A FORM OF HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION... JUST LIKE WHEN I ALWAYS TELL *MYSELF* I'M THE BEST WARRIOR IN THE UNIVERSE! BUT...
plp plp
NOT *MAGIC*. NO...
KAWU
THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY POINT IF I LOST SIGHT OF *MYSELF*!

THE GREAT SECHS SKILL-FULLY TAKES OUT THE ZWOLF BOOMERANG!
FSSH!
THE OLD ME WOULDA KILLED HER BUT...DUMB AS SHE IS...SHE IS MY TEAMMATE!
GUESS I'VE BECOME SOFT...
GUESS I'LL TRY IT OUT...
KRK KRK
AHH...
BEHOLD! THE HUMAN SLASH!
ARISE AND FACE ME!
SPROING!

HE CAN MIMIC MY VOICE?!

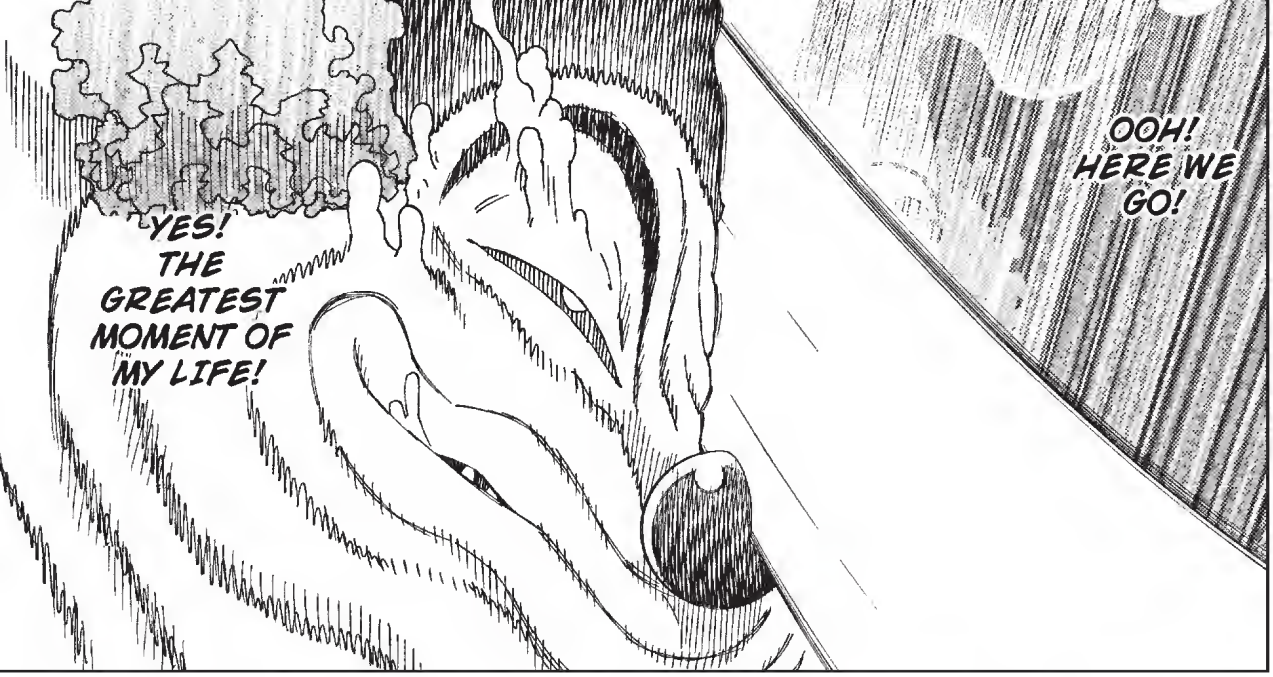

FLAN!
I AM FLAN.

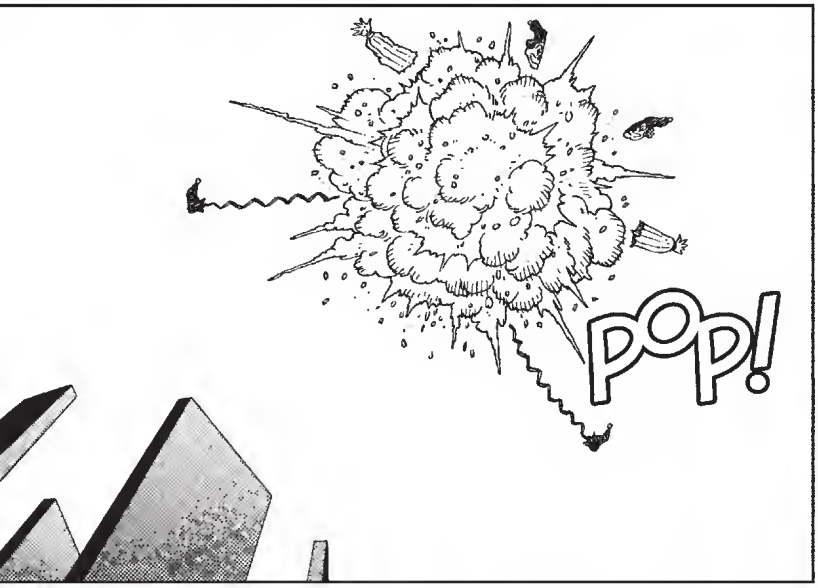

LILY! THAT WASN'T ME! NO...
BLP
BLP
BLP

FORM OF A... HUMAN FLAN!
OH, MAN!
TA-DA

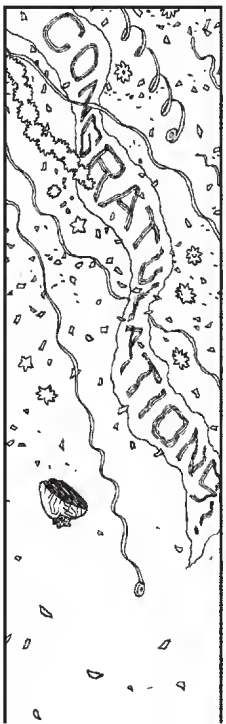
BLOOP
NOOOO!
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE LOSE SIGHT OF OURSELVES!
FWSH

YOU USE OTHERS AND MAKE A JOKE OUT OF IT?! YOU MAKE ME SICK!
LET'S HAVE A NICE LONG LAUGH FOR... DEATH!
YES, YES!
SLOORP
THOK
WHOA!

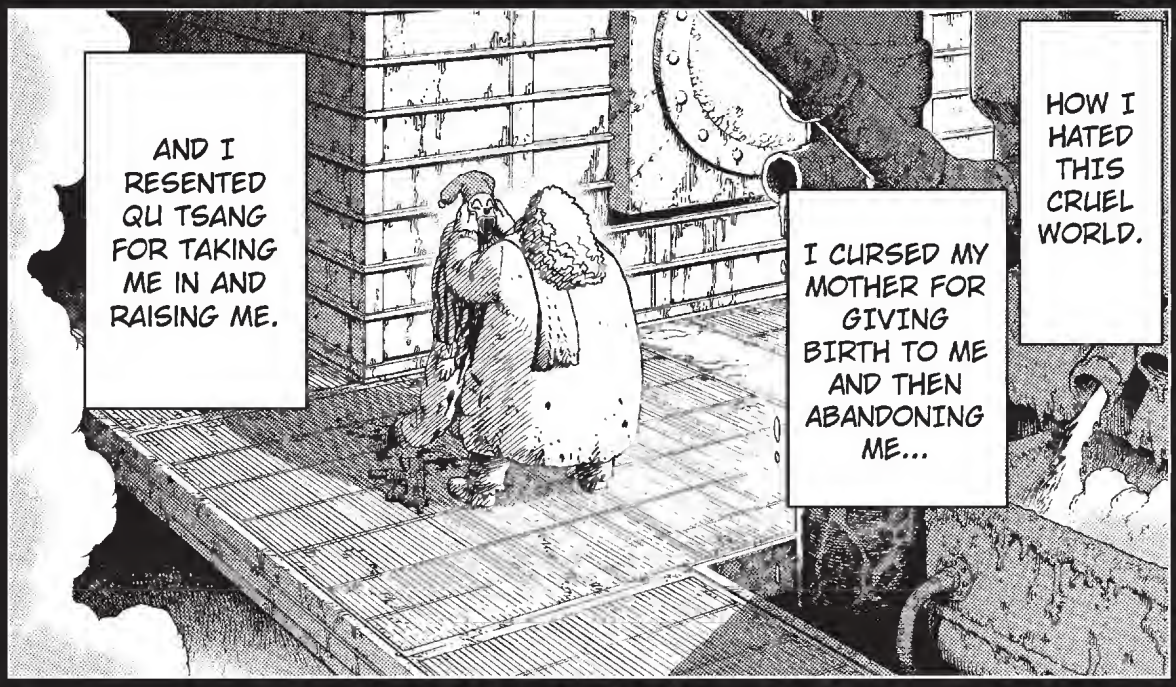

YES! THE GREATEST MOMENT OF MY LIFE!
OOH! HERE WE GO!

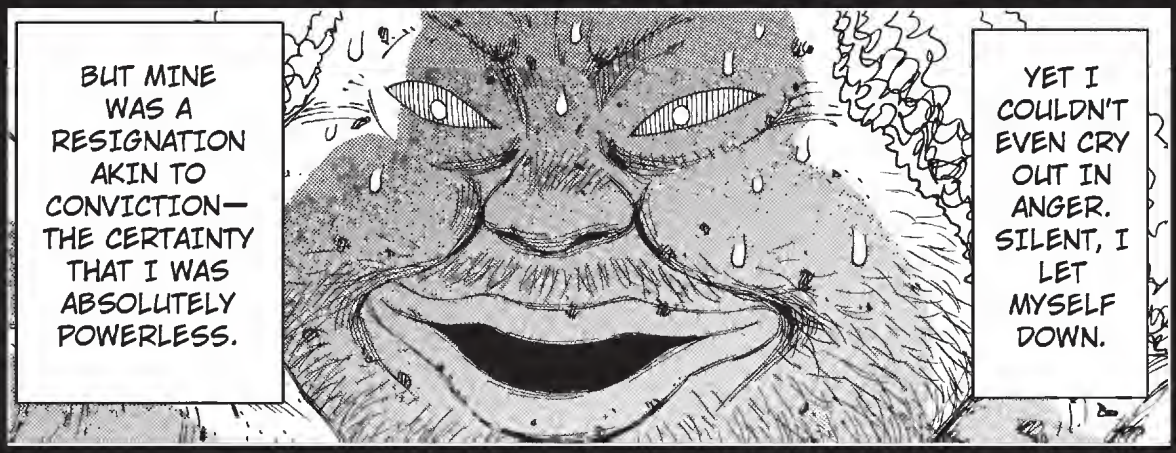

POP!

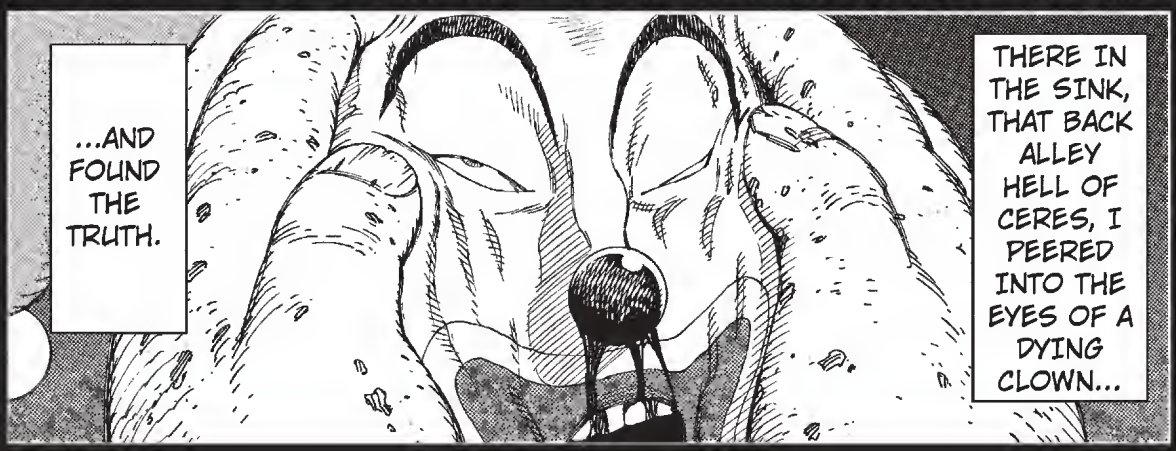
LAUGH, EVERYONE! LAUGH!
LAUGH!

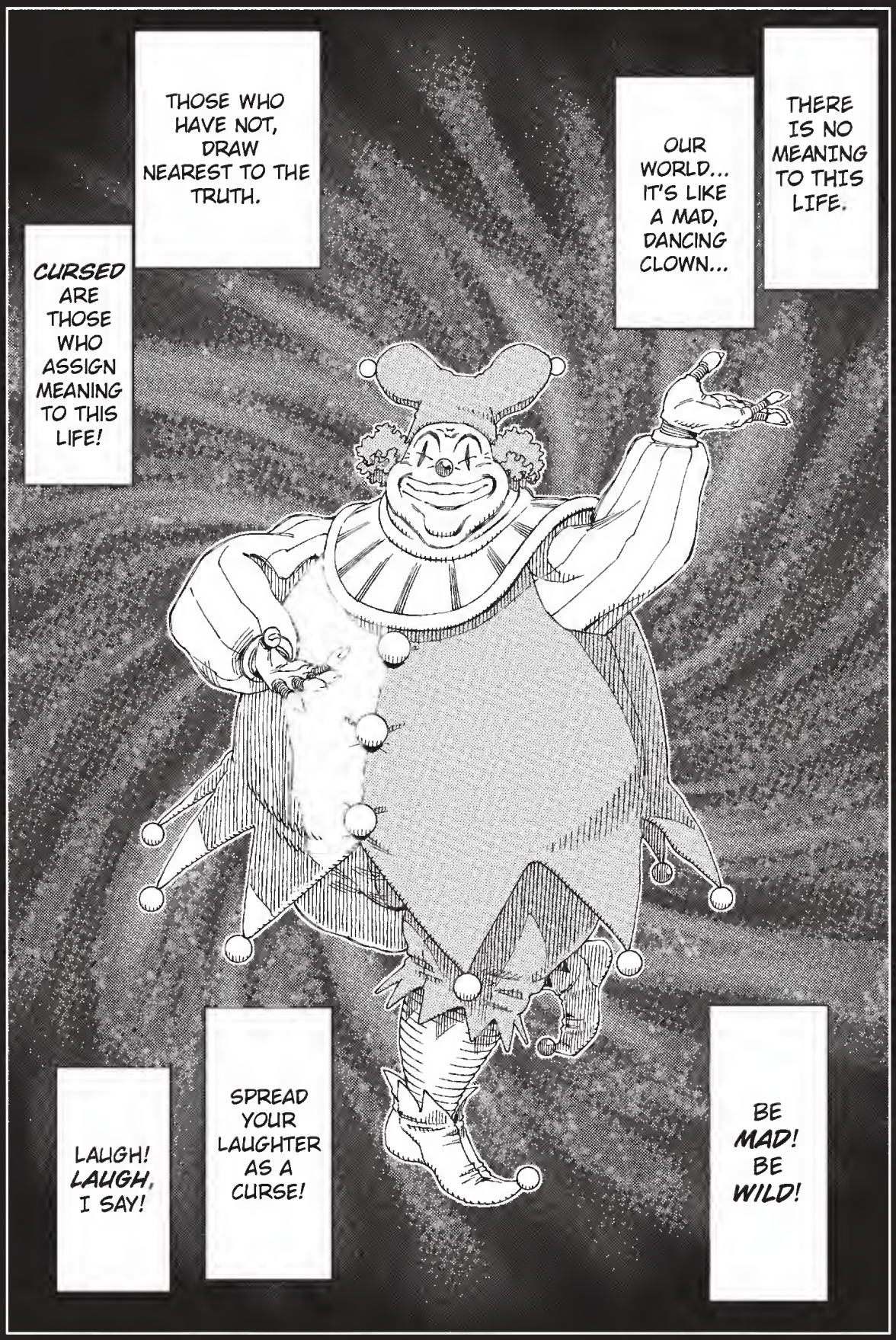

CONGRATULATIONS!

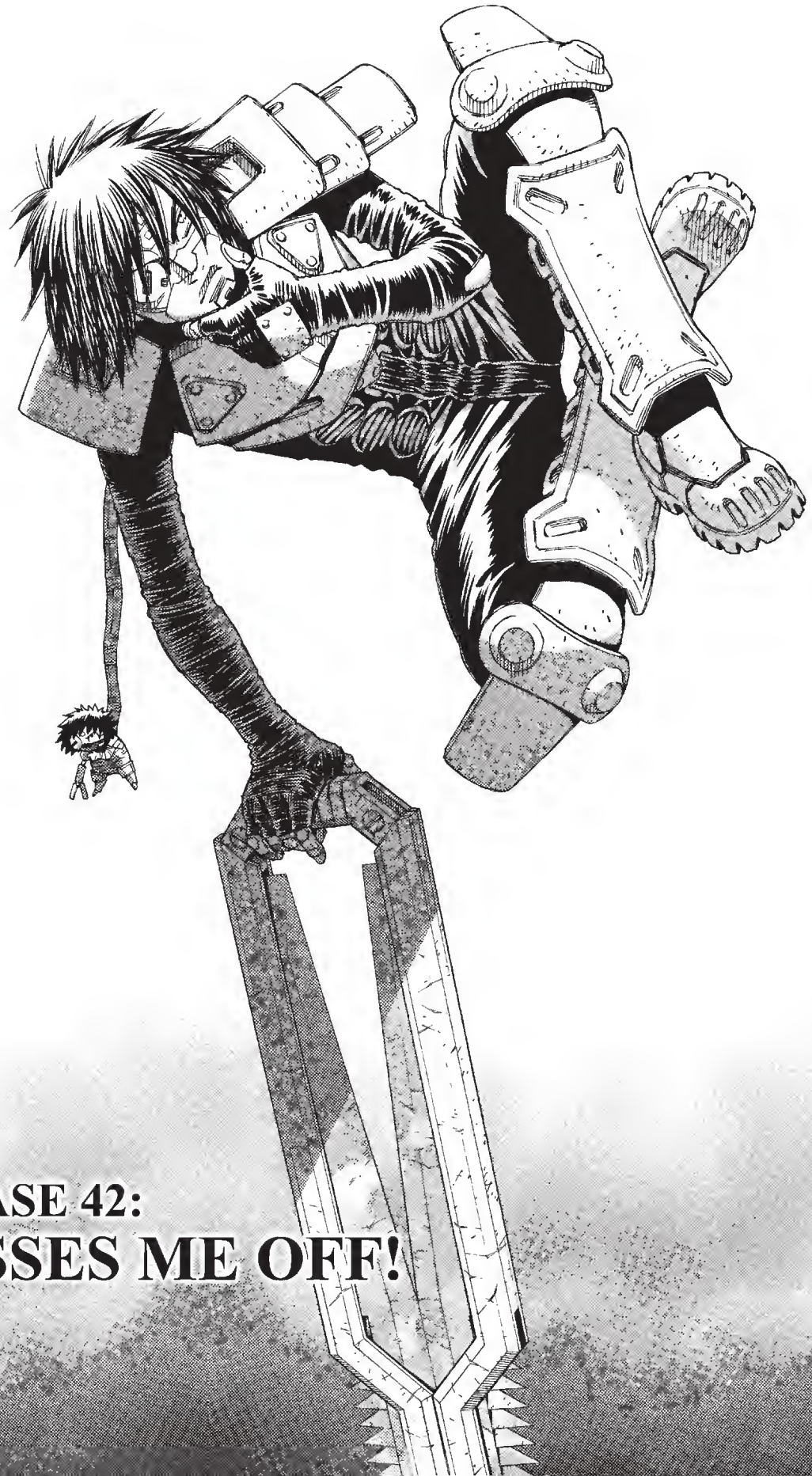
(An excerpt from Molonev Menhir's diary)
November 2, ES 577





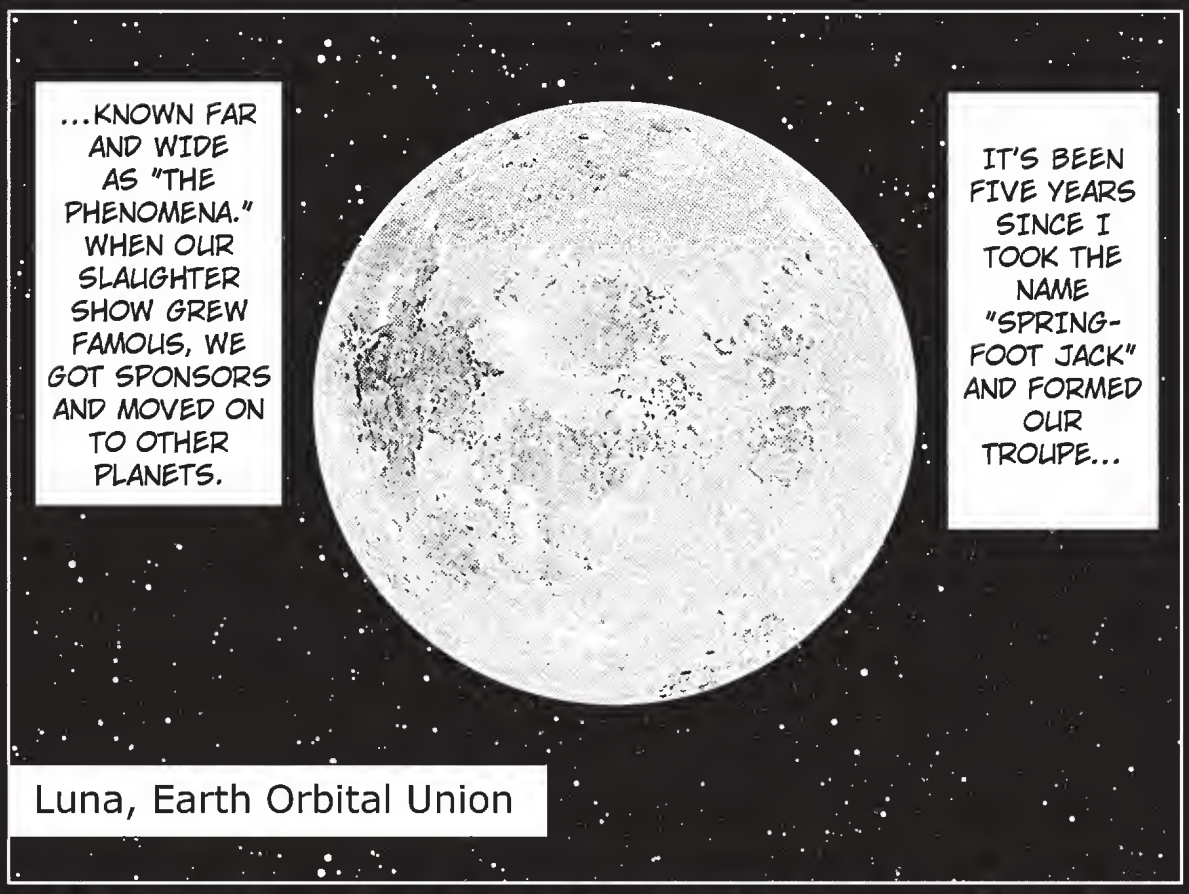


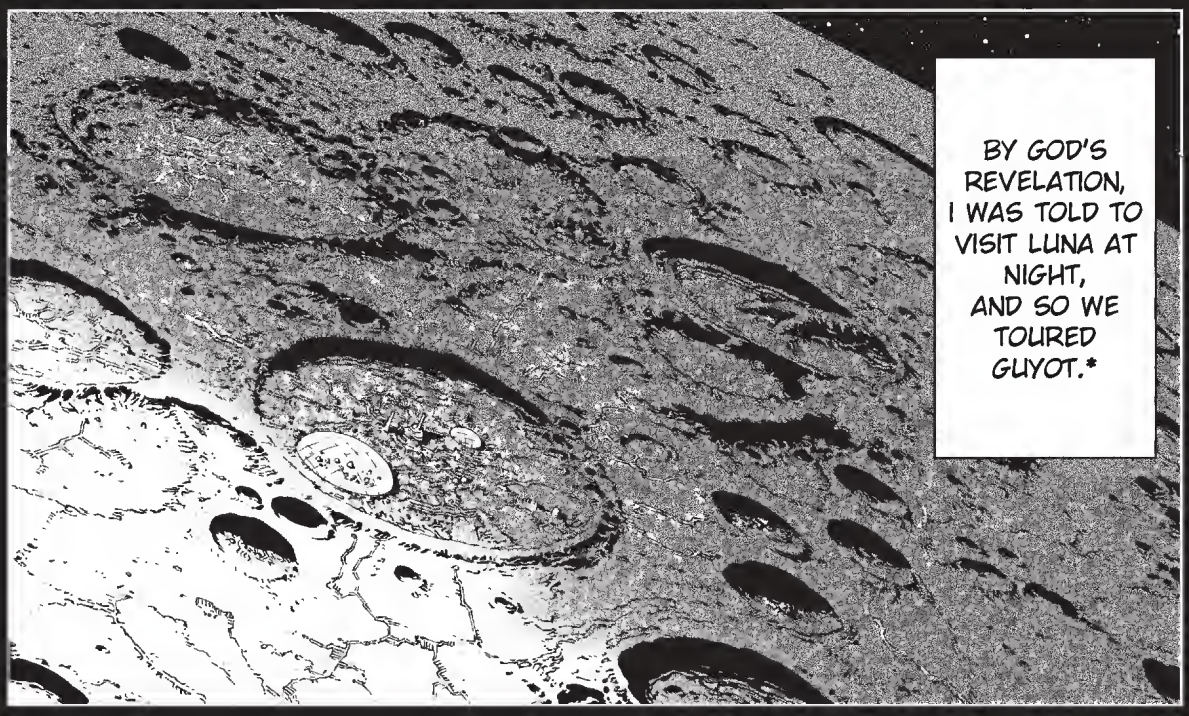

THOSE WHO HAVE NOT, DRAW NEAREST TO THE TRUTH.
OUR WORLD... IT'S LIKE A MAD, DANCING CLOWN...
THERE IS NO MEANING TO THIS LIFE.
CURSED ARE THOSE WHO ASSIGN MEANING TO THIS LIFE!
LAUGH! LAUGH, I SAY!
SPREAD YOUR LAUGHTER AS A CURSE!
BE MAD! BE WILD!



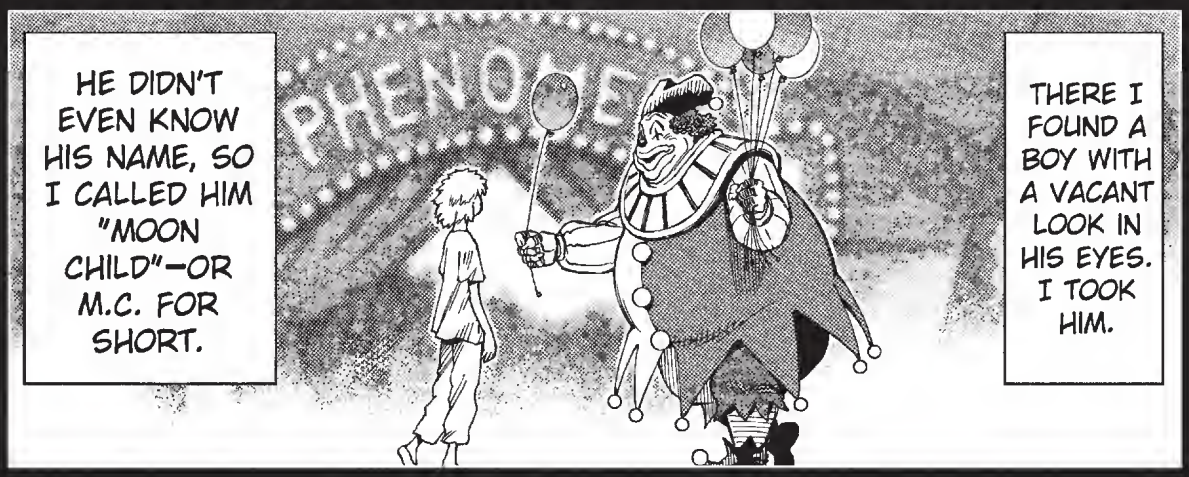
PHASE 42:
PISSES ME OFF!

(An excerpt from Molonev Menhir's diary)
April 9, ES 582



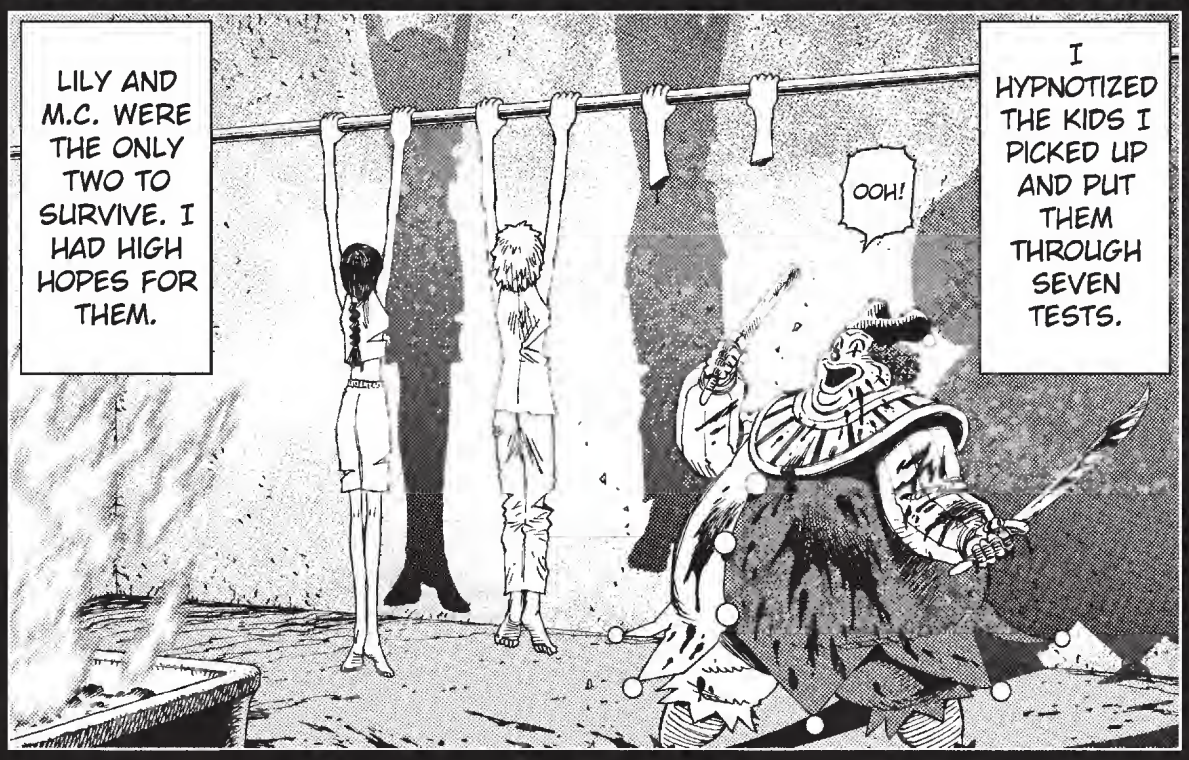


__Guyot Crater:__ A medium-scale crater measuring 110 km in diameter at 11° N latitude, 117° longitude.

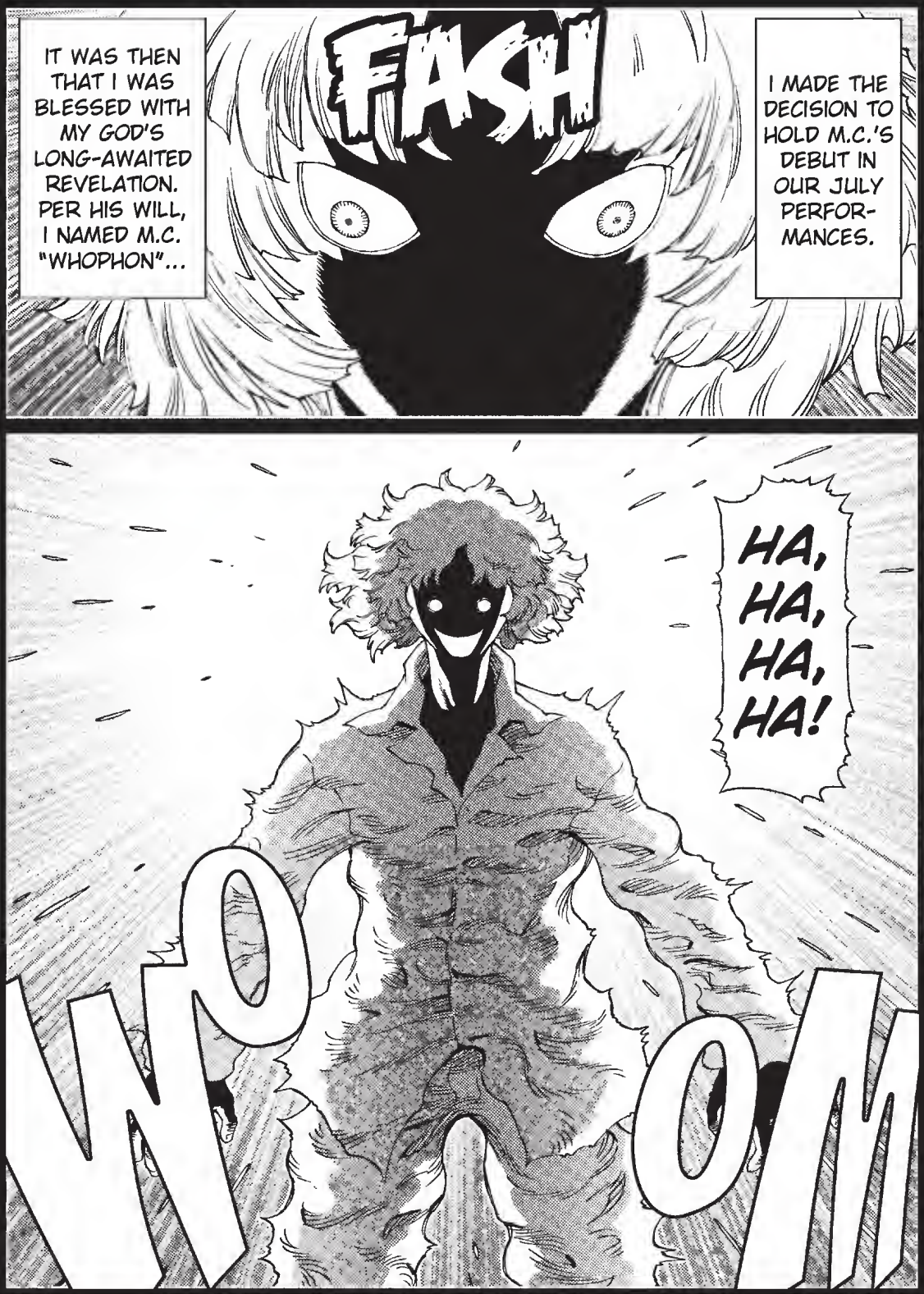

HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HIS NAME, SO I CALLED HIM "MOON CHILD"—OR M.C. FOR SHORT.
PHENOMENA
THERE I FOUND A BOY WITH A VACANT LOOK IN HIS EYES. I TOOK HIM.

May 5, ES 582

KR EK SH

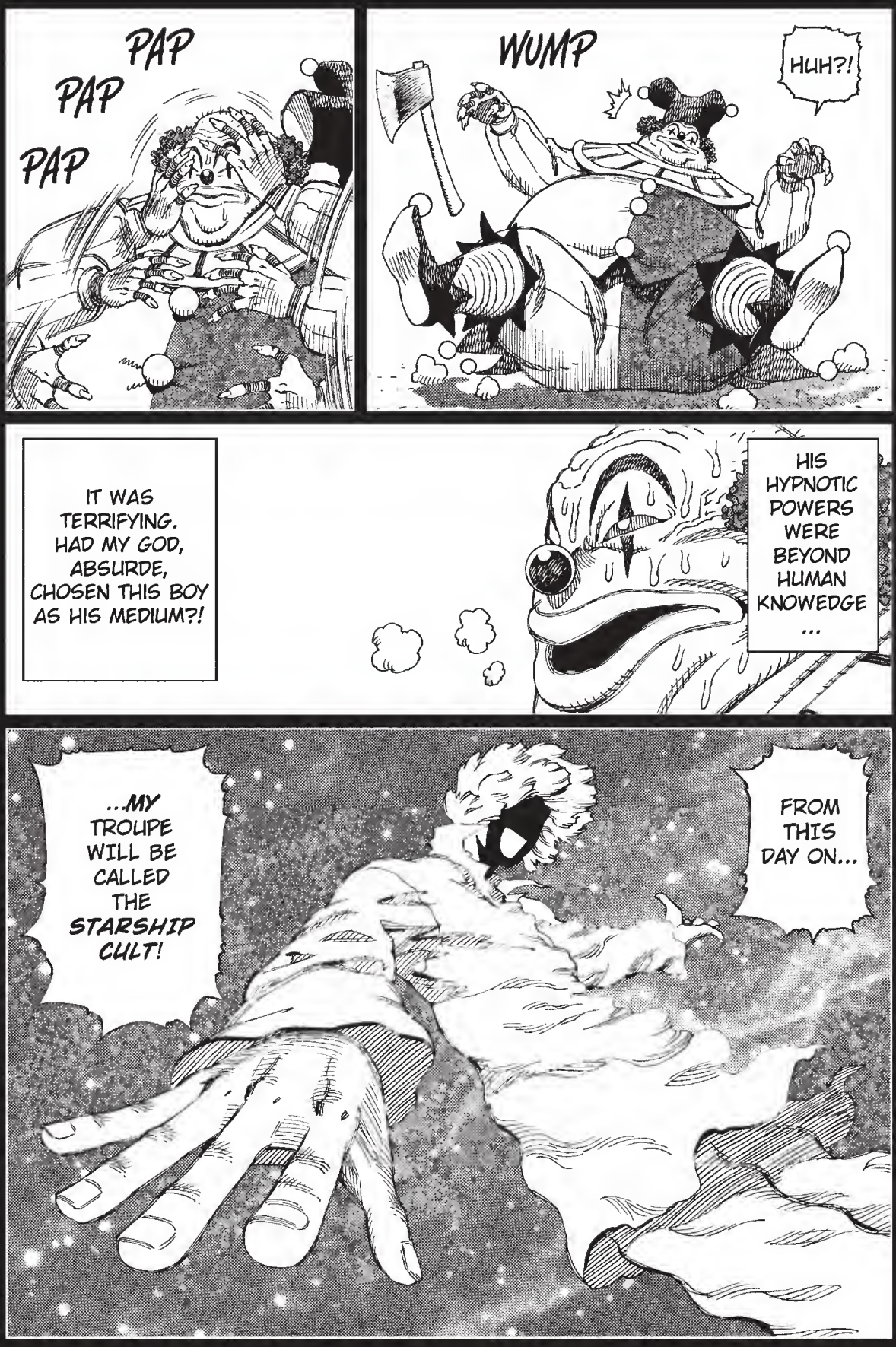

LILY AND M.C. WERE THE ONLY TWO TO SURVIVE. I HAD HIGH HOPES FOR THEM.
OOH!
I HYPNOTIZED THE KIDS I PICKED UP AND PUT THEM THROUGH SEVEN TESTS.

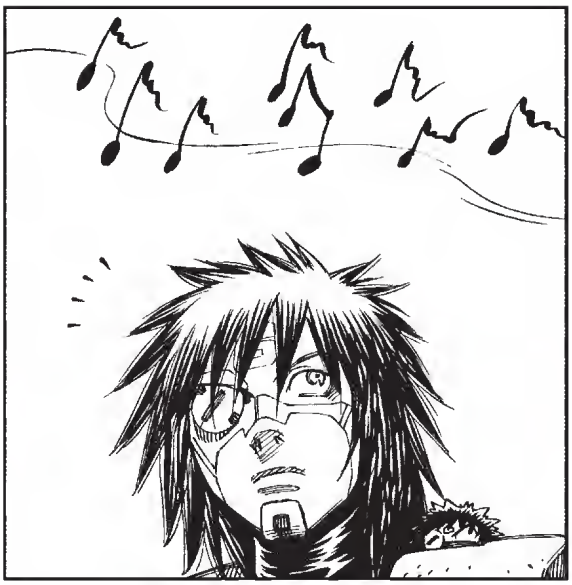
June 28, ES 588

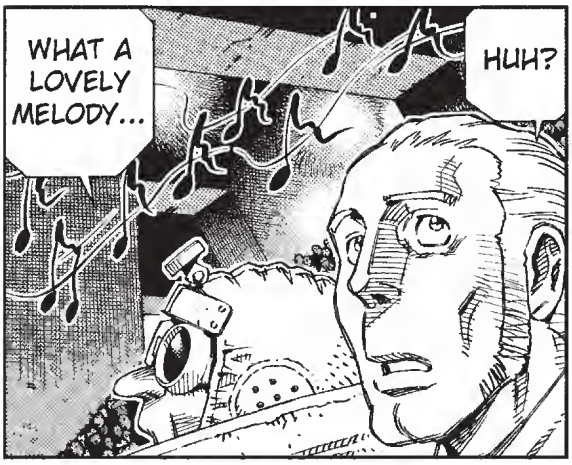


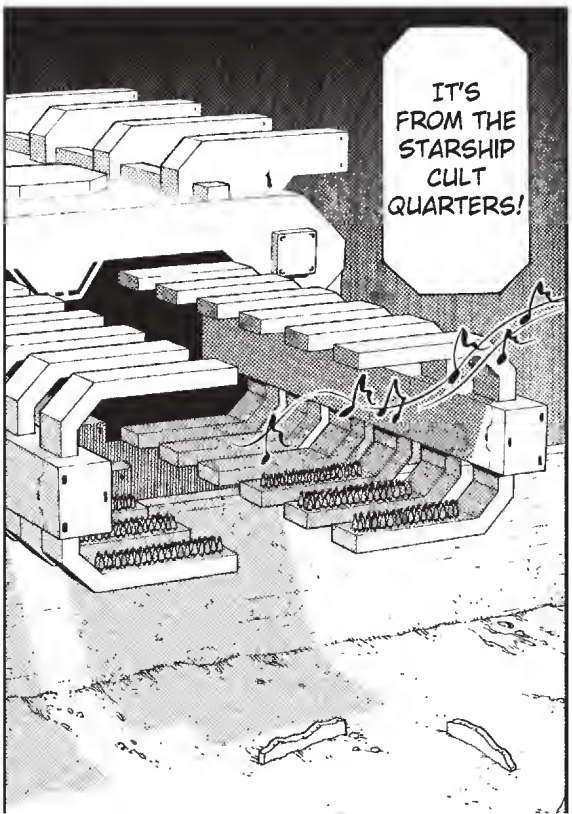
WORSHIP ME, FOR GOD HAS BEEN SEATED WITHIN ME!
REVERE ME! EXALT ME!
VWISH
PAOO!
HAVE YOU GONE MAD, M.C.!
WAAH?!
SPSH
PLSH

VOOM
THE TROUPE IS A BIG SUCCESS. THANK YOU.
NOW I'LL DO WHAT I WANT. AND YOU WILL DO AS I SAY TOO.
CALL ME WHOPHON, JACK...


PAP
PAP
PAP
WUMP
HUH?!
IT WAS TERRIFYING. HAD MY GOD, ABSURDE, CHOSEN THIS BOY AS HIS MEDIUM?!
HIS HYPNOTIC POWERS WERE BEYOND HUMAN KNOWEDGE ...
...MY TROUPE WILL BE CALLED THE STARSHIP CULT!
FROM THIS DAY ON...



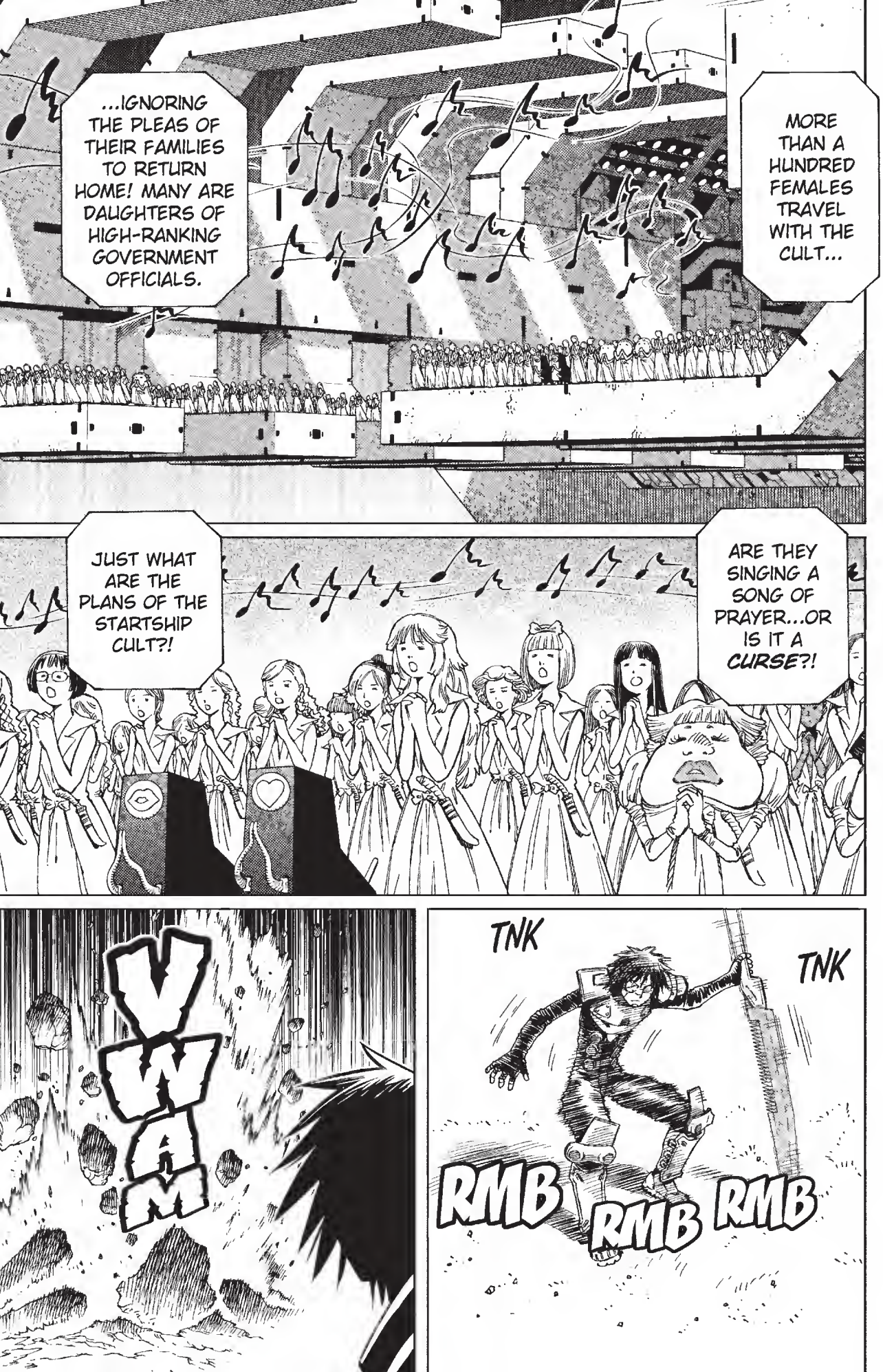


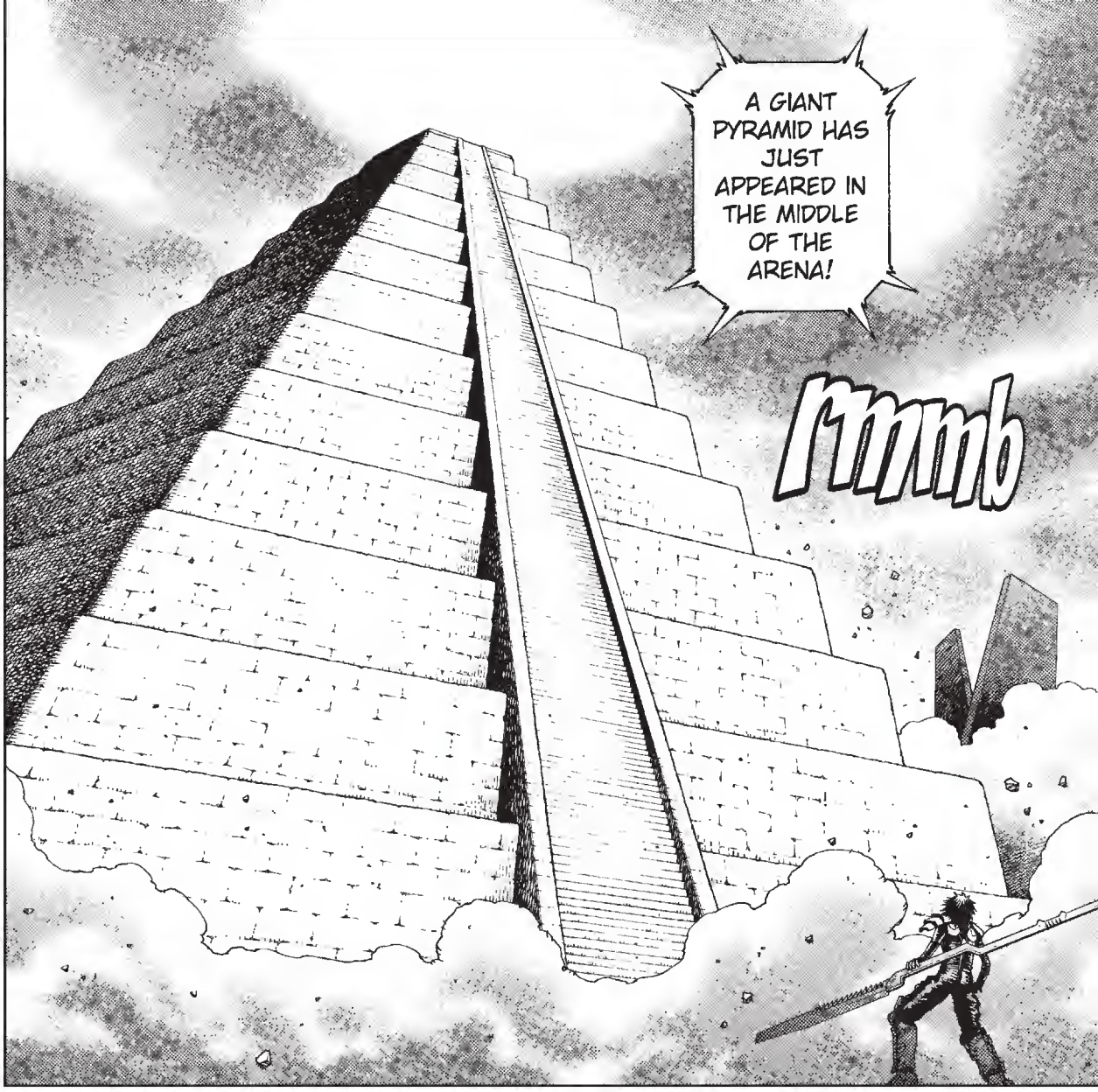


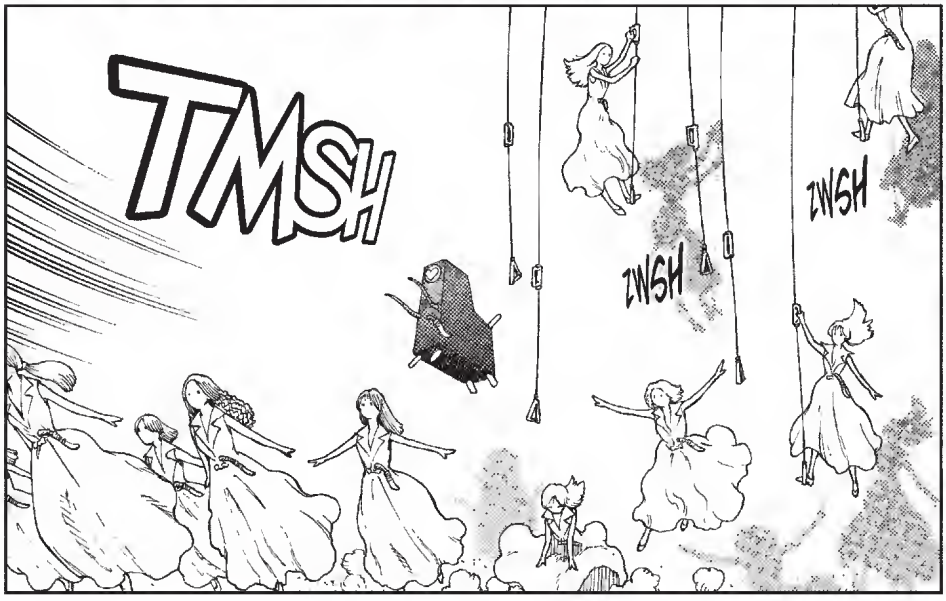
Present day...

WHAT A BIZARRE MATCH WE'VE HAD IN THIS SECOND ROUND OF THE Z.O.T.T.!

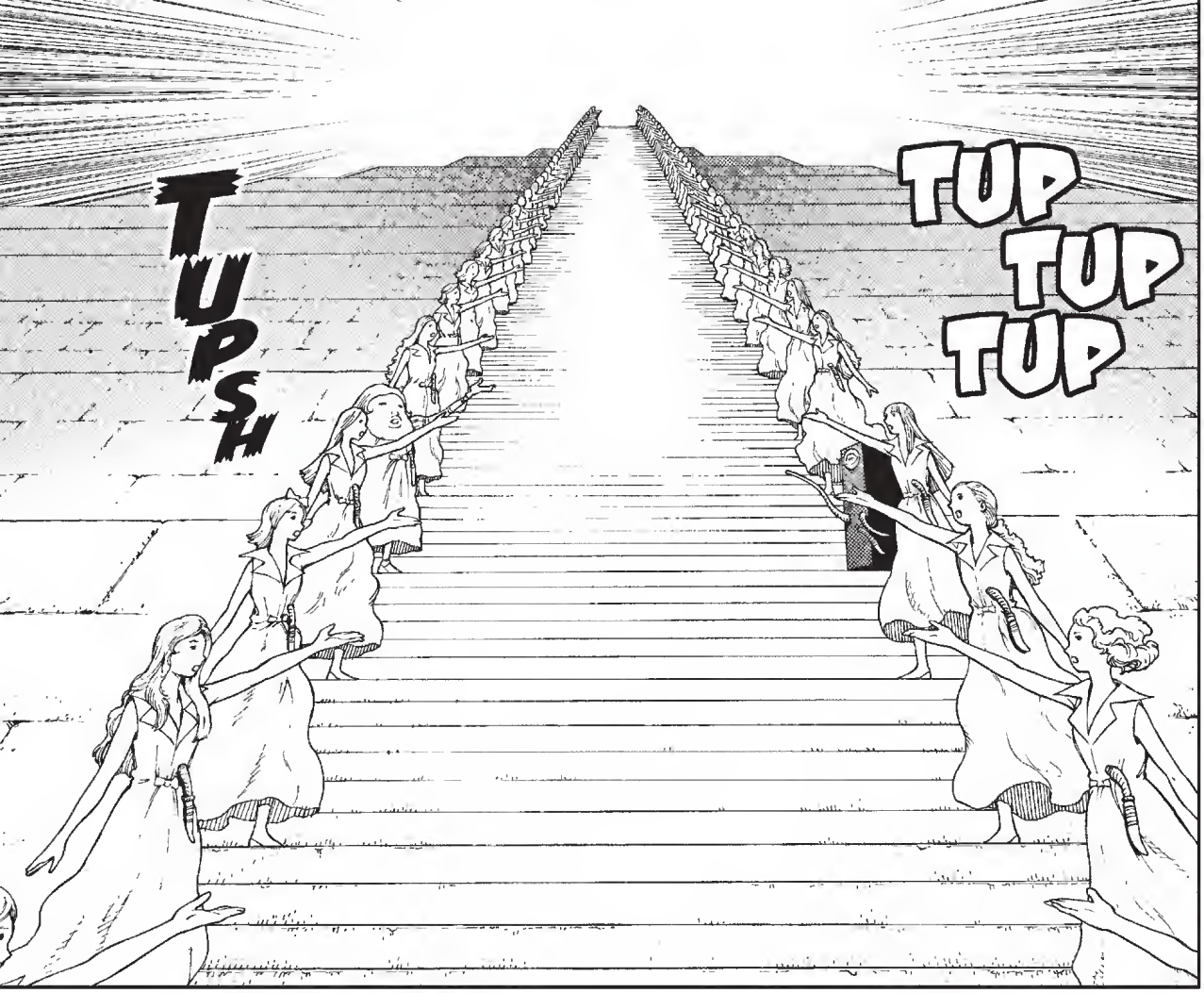
C'MON! GET OUT HERE!


...IGNORING THE PLEAS OF THEIR FAMILIES TO RETURN HOME! MANY ARE DAUGHTERS OF HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.
MORE THAN A HUNDRED FEMALES TRAVEL WITH THE CULT...
JUST WHAT ARE THE PLANS OF THE STARTSHIP CULT?!
ARE THEY SINGING A SONG OF PRAYER...OR IS IT A CURSE?!
VWAM
TNK
TNK
RMB
RMB
RMB


A GIANT PYRAMID HAS JUST APPEARED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ARENA!
Rrrrrrb

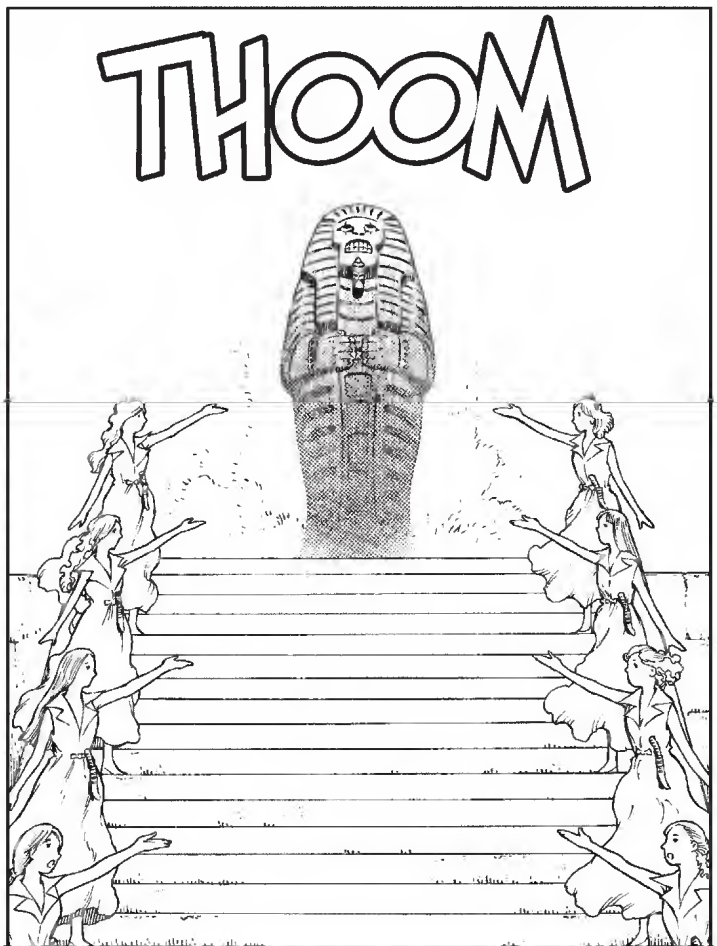

TMSH
ZWSH
ZWSH

IS THIS WHO I'M GONNA FIGHT NEXT?!

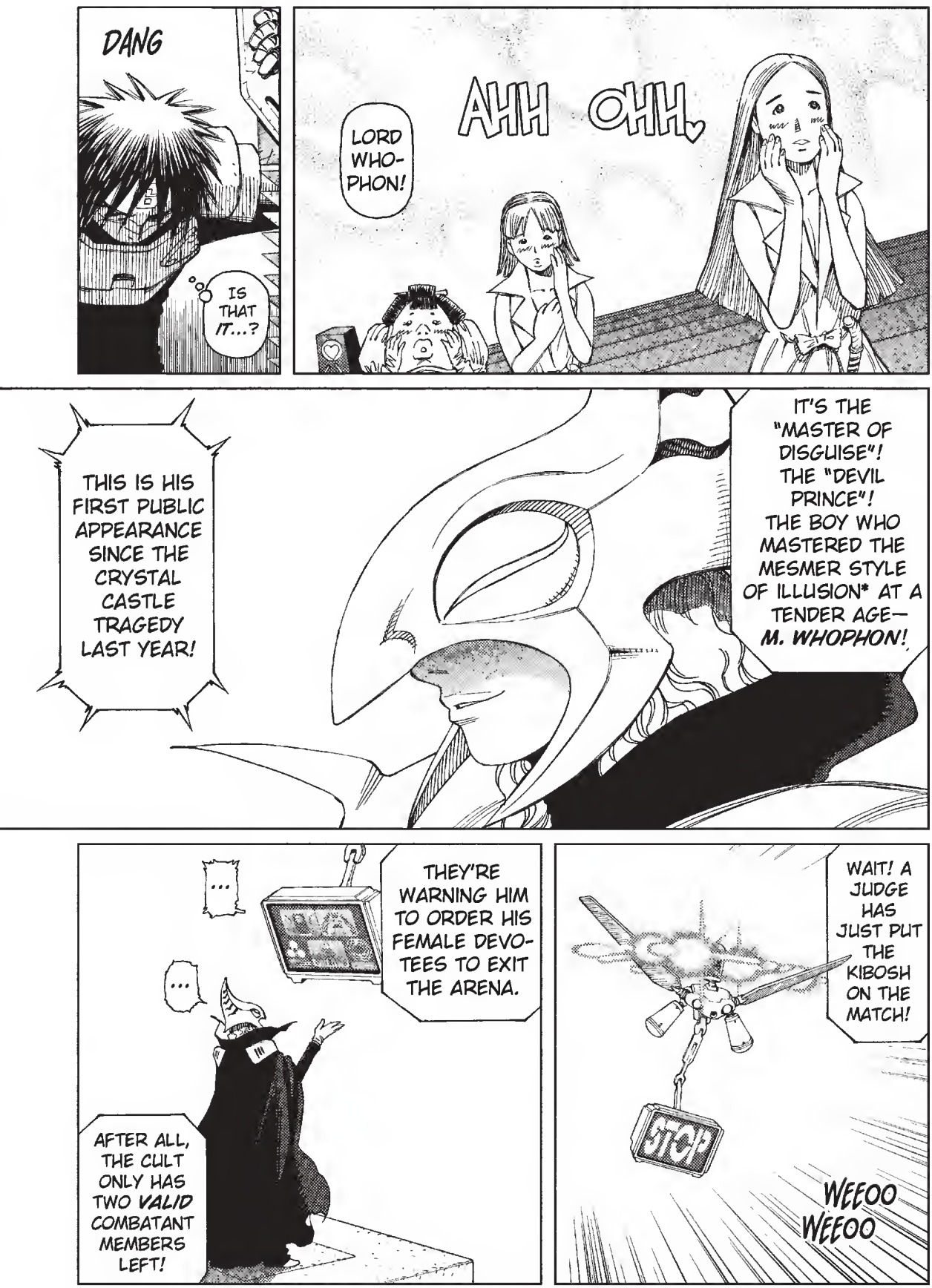

TUPSH
TUP TUP TUP

IS THAT THE LAST BOSS?
HM!

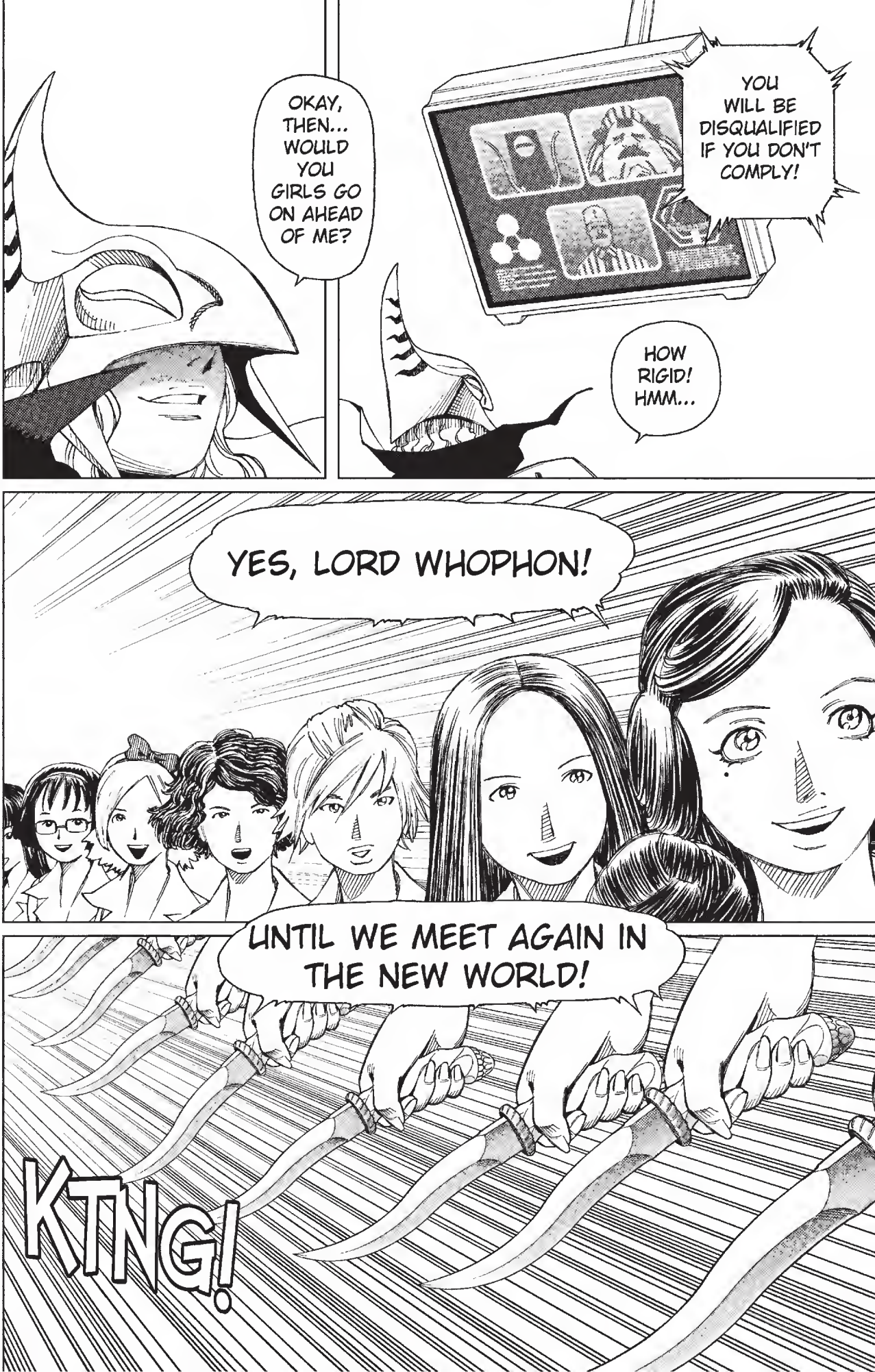
JING!


THOOM

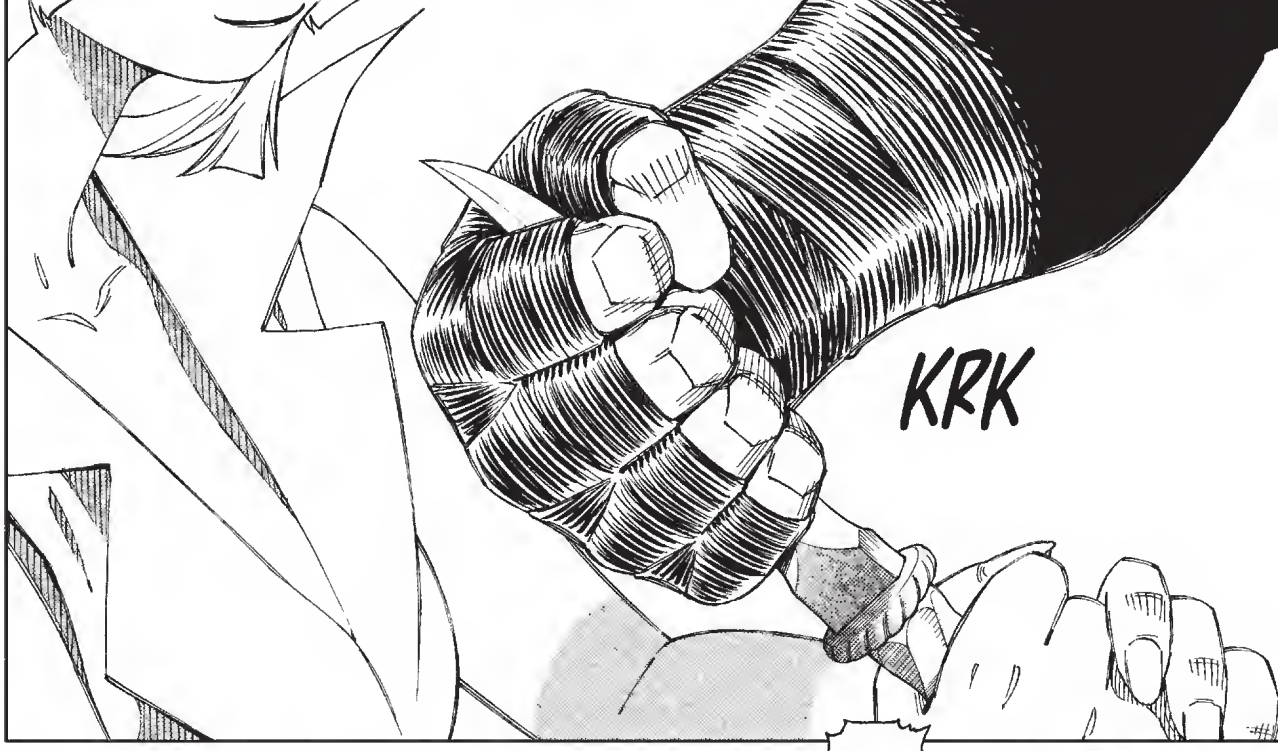
BLOM!
YES! IT IS...I!



***Meser Style of Illusion:** A sect proclaiming to follow the teachings of Austrian doctor and the father of Hypnotism, Franz Anton Mesmer (1734 - 1815), who advocated a theory of "animal magnetism." Of course, this didn't really exist and it did nothing more than give his audience the impression of prestige through his authority.*


OKAY, THEN... WOULD YOU GIRLS GO ON AHEAD OF ME?
YOU WILL BE DISQUALIFIED IF YOU DON'T COMPLY!
HOW RIGID! HMM...
YES, LORD WHOPHON!
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN IN THE NEW WORLD!
KTNG!

OH NO! IT'S A MASS SUICIDE! RIGHT HERE IN THE ARENA!
WHUD
THUK
THUK
THUK
SATISFIED?
AH...!
HUH?

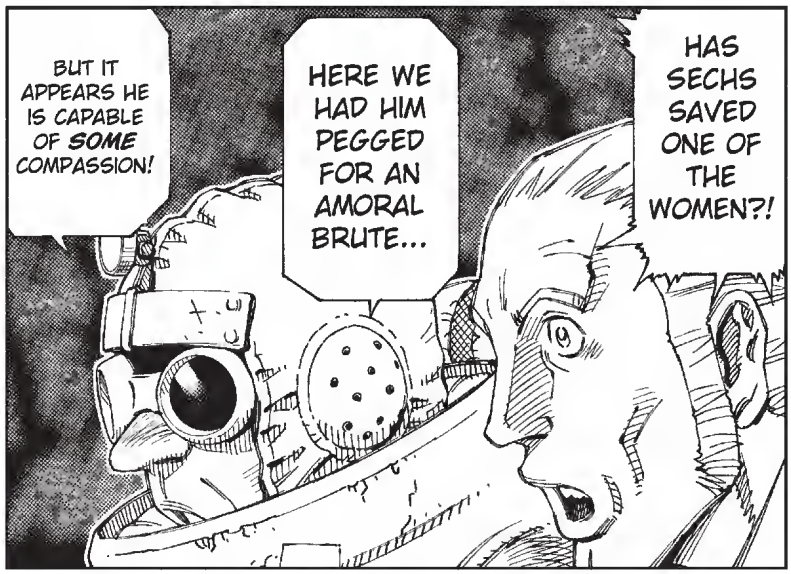

KRK

WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO KILL YOURSELF!?

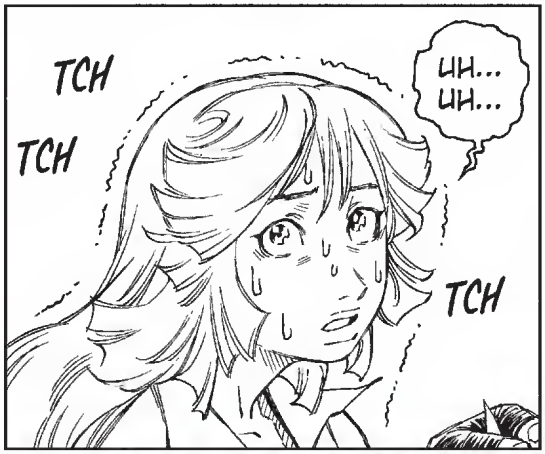
WHA-
LET GO!

I HAVE TO ASK...
UH... NO!

MISHA.
EVERY-ONE'S LEFT BUT YOU!

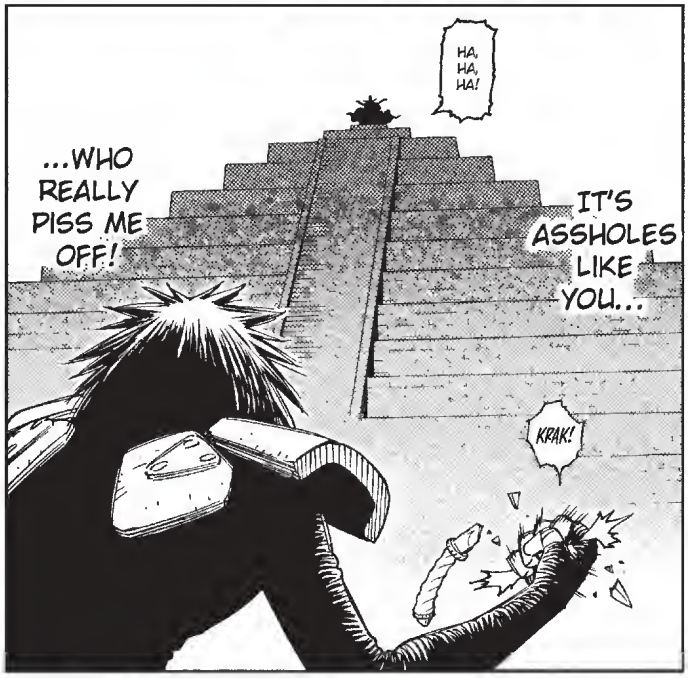

BUT IT APPEARS HE IS CAPABLE OF SOME COMPASSION!
HERE WE HAD HIM PEGGED FOR AN AMORAL BRUTE...
HAS SECHS SAVED ONE OF THE WOMEN?!

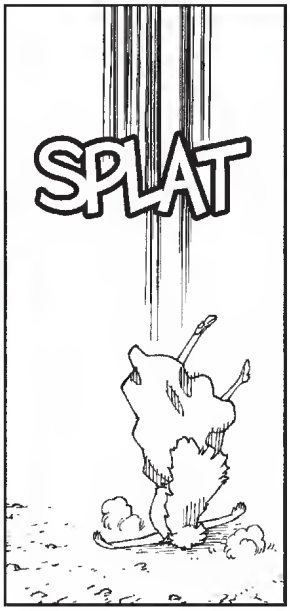
EEP!
YOU IDIOT!
SNK!

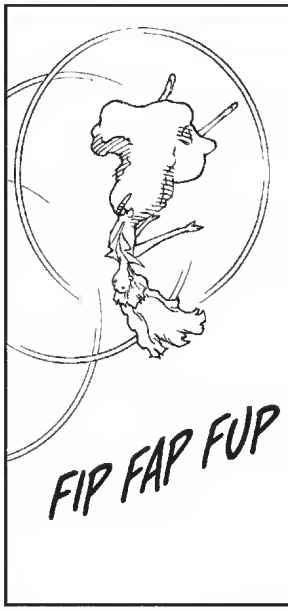

TCH
TCH
TCH
UH... UH...

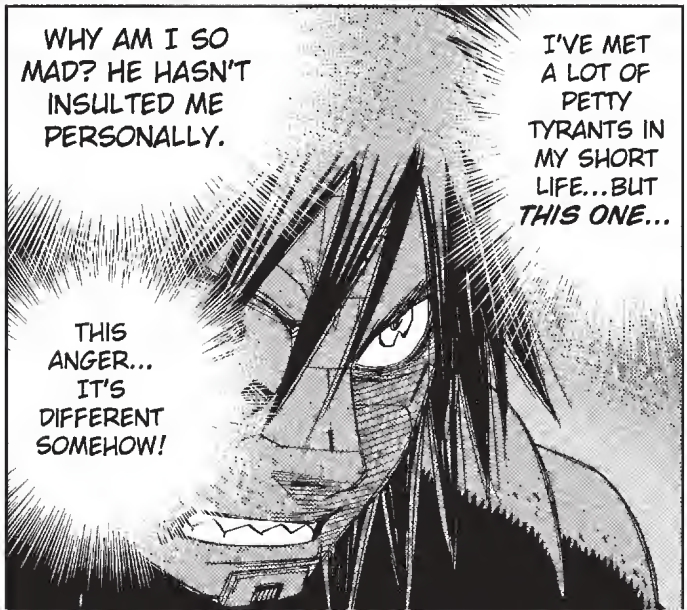
LET ME GO!
I'VE GOT TO DIE...
...OR I WON'T MAKE IT TO THE NEW WORLD!

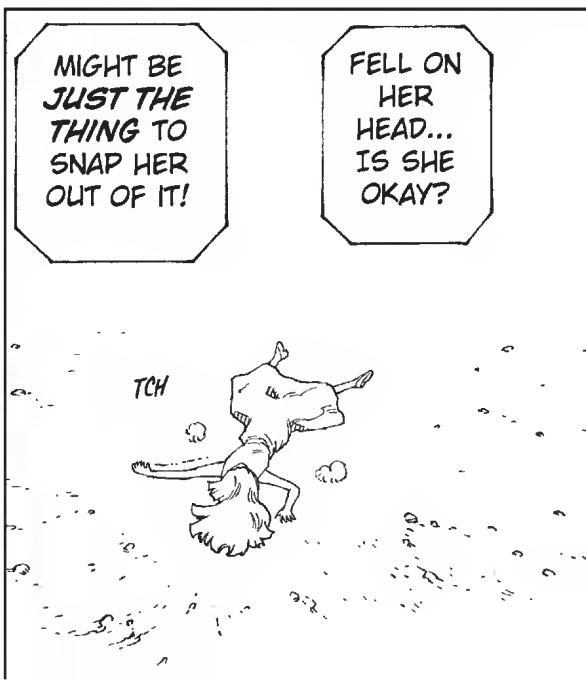
...WHO NEEDS TO DIE!
YOU'RE NOT THE ONE...

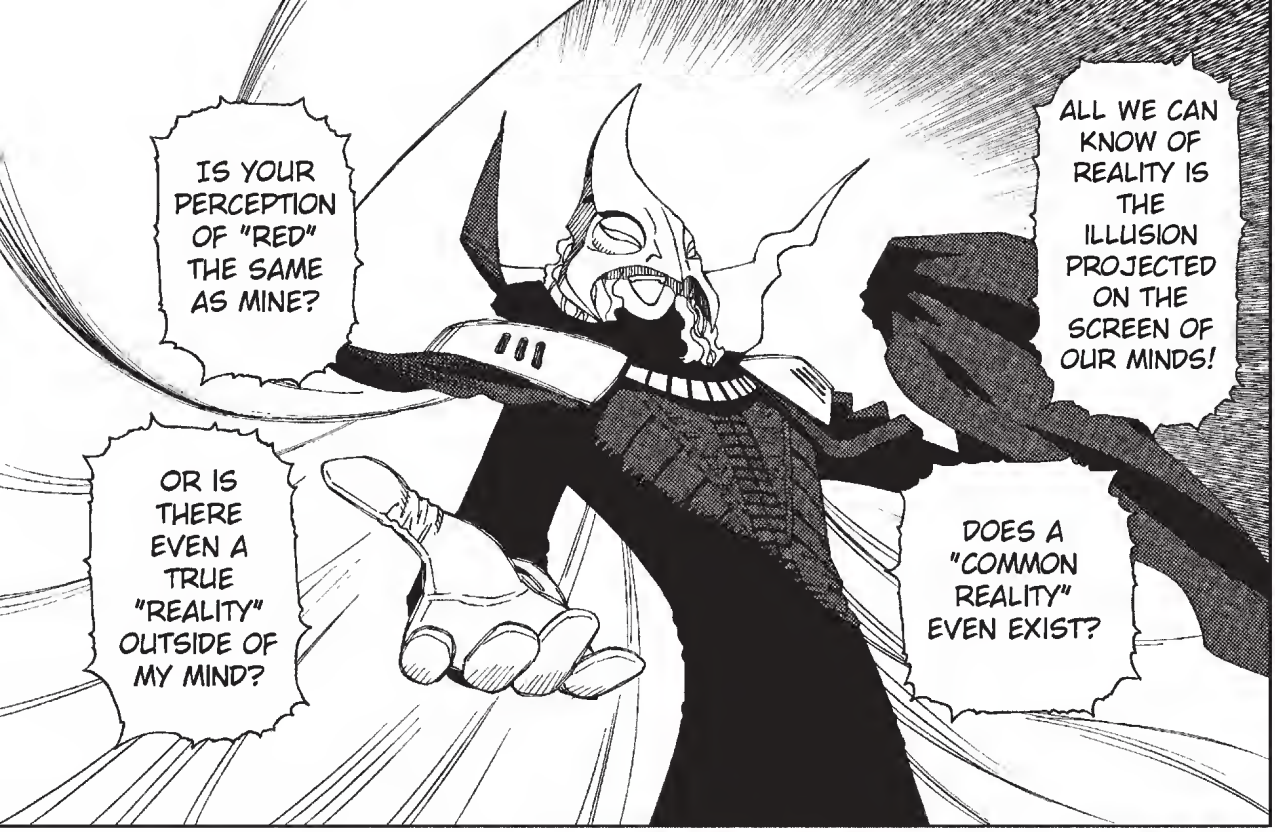

HA, HA, HA!
...WHO REALLY PISS ME OFF!
IT'S ASSHOLES LIKE YOU...
KRAK!


SPLAT


FIP FAP FUP

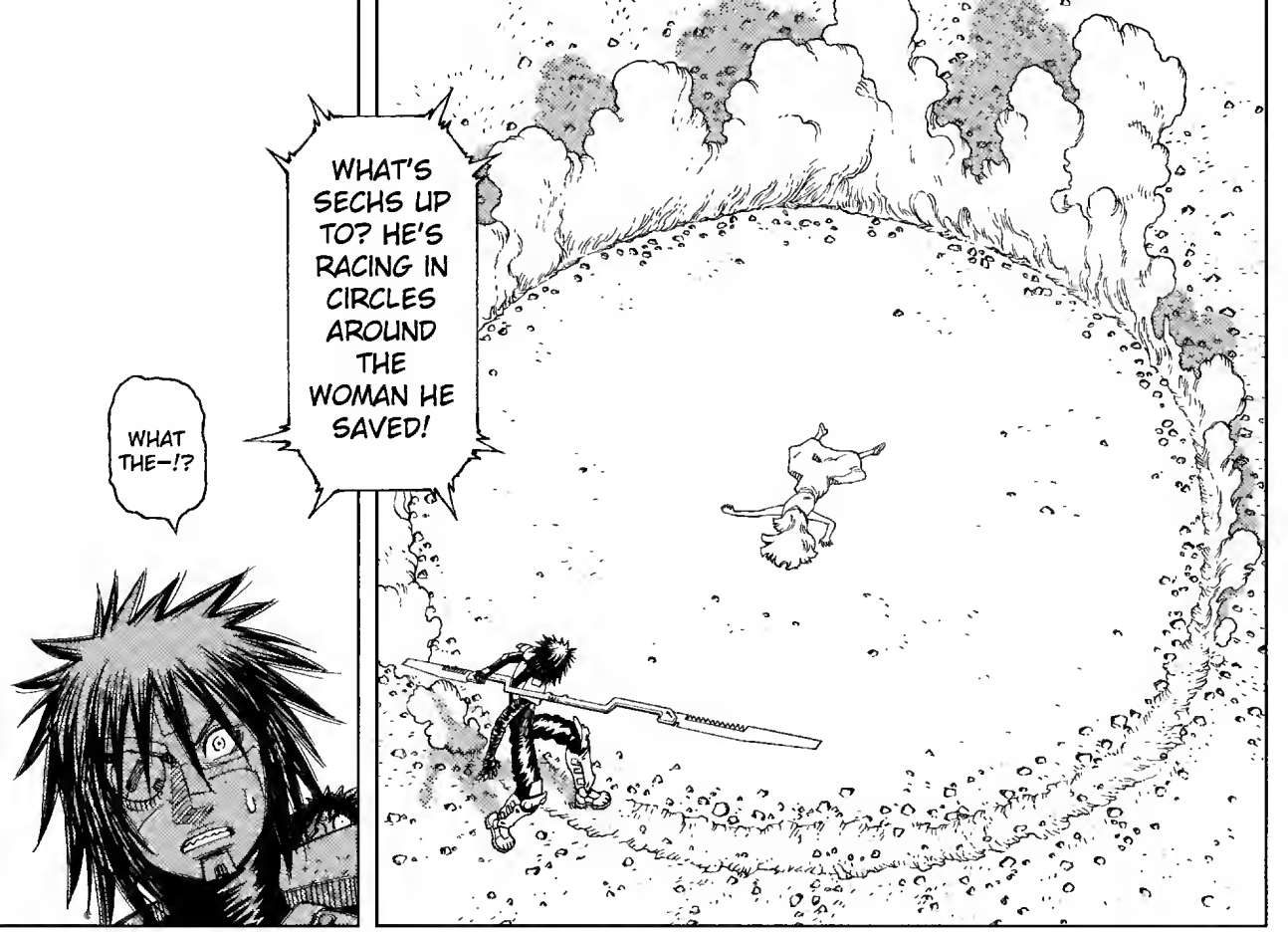

WHY AM I SO MAD? HE HASN'T INSULTED ME PERSONALLY.
I'VE MET A LOT OF PETTY TYRANTS IN MY SHORT LIFE...BUT *THIS ONE*...
THIS ANGER... IT'S DIFFERENT SOMEHOW!

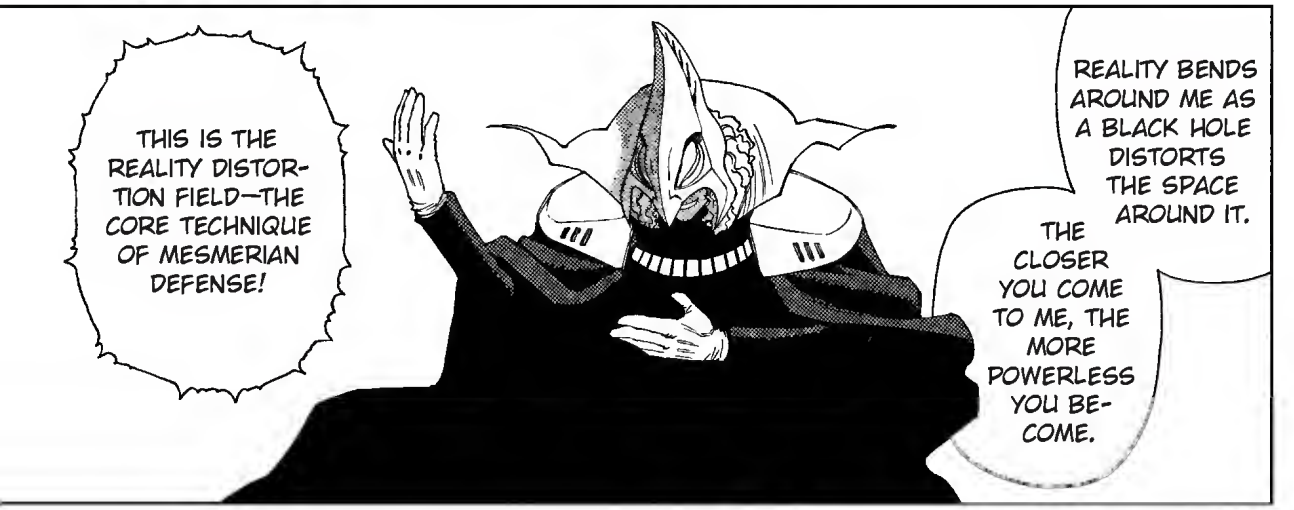

MIGHT BE *JUST THE THING* TO SNAP HER OUT OF IT!
FELL ON HER HEAD... IS SHE OKAY?
TCH


IS YOUR PERCEPTION OF "RED" THE SAME AS MINE?
ALL WE CAN KNOW OF REALITY IS THE ILLUSION PROJECTED ON THE SCREEN OF OUR MINDS!
OR IS THERE EVEN A TRUE "REALITY" OUTSIDE OF MY MIND?
DOES A "COMMON REALITY" EVEN EXIST?

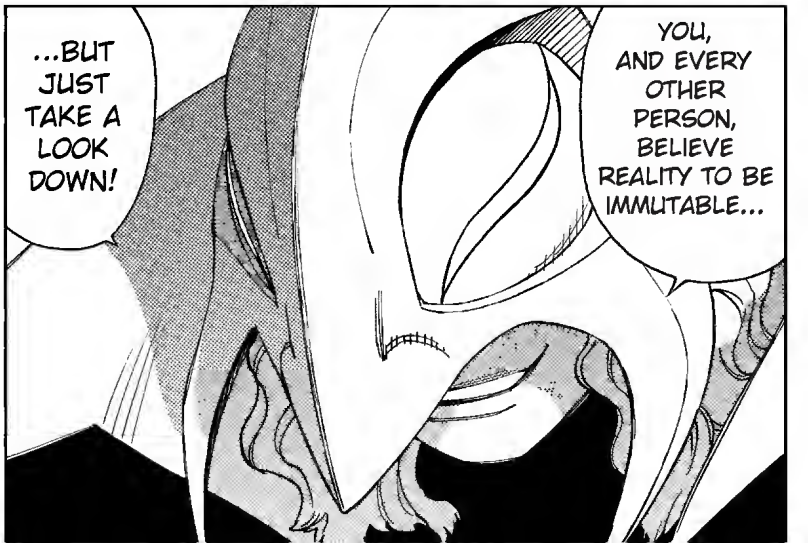
I'LL JUST DESTROY YOU!
BLAH, BLAH, BLAH. WHO NEEDS THIS ??
WOOM
SIGH... HAVE IT YOUR WAY...
WHAT'S THE RUSH? A FEW OPENING REMARKS WON'T KILL YOU!

TMP TMP TMP TMP
HMM?!
I'M RUNNING AND RUNNING, BUT...
WMP WMP WMP WMP
THAT'S ODD...
I'M NOT GETTING ANY CLOSER!
FMP FMP FMP FMP
CRAP!
SKRKK
fip


WHAT'S SECHS UP TO? HE'S RACING IN CIRCLES AROUND THE WOMAN HE SAVED!
WHAT THE-!?


THIS IS THE REALITY DISTORTION FIELD—THE CORE TECHNIQUE OF MESMERIAN DEFENSE!
REALITY BENDS AROUND ME AS A BLACK HOLE DISTORTS THE SPACE AROUND IT.
THE CLOSER YOU COME TO ME, THE MORE POWERLESS YOU BECOME.

TMSH

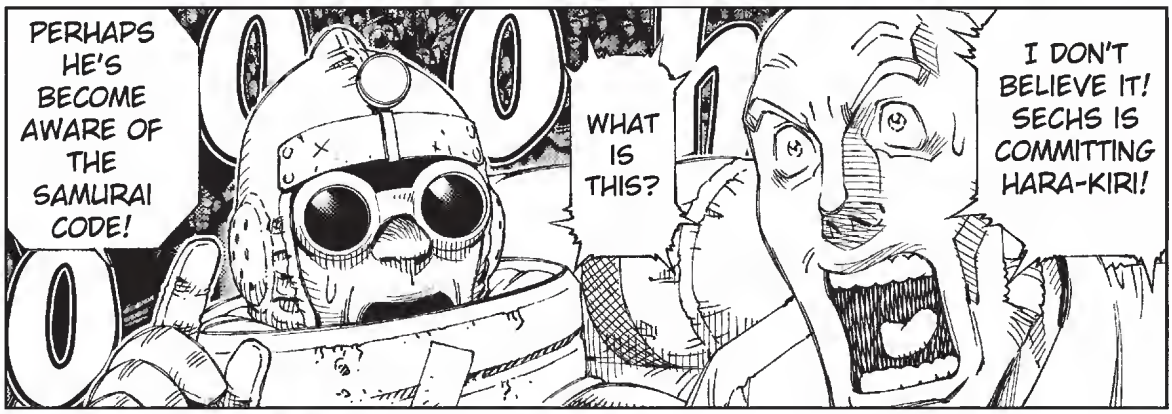

...BUT JUST TAKE A LOOK DOWN!
YOU, AND EVERY OTHER PERSON, BELIEVE REALITY TO BE IMMUTABLE...

YOU'RE NOT SO STRONG AFTER ALL.
VWSHT
MY...MY SHADOW ?!
THE WORLD DOESN'T NEED THE LIKES OF YOU!
YOU'RE JUST AN INFERIOR REPLICA. A FAILURE. A RELIC OF THE PAST.
YOU MAY NOT LISTEN TO OTHERS, BUT YOU CAN'T IGNORE THE VOICE OF YOUR SHADOW.
MESMER STYLE: "DARK SIDE OF THE MOON"!
IS THAT... ME?!

SHUT UP!
YOU'LL NEVER BE MORE THAN A REPLICA!
YOU CAN NEVER SURPASS THE REAL THING!
THUKSH

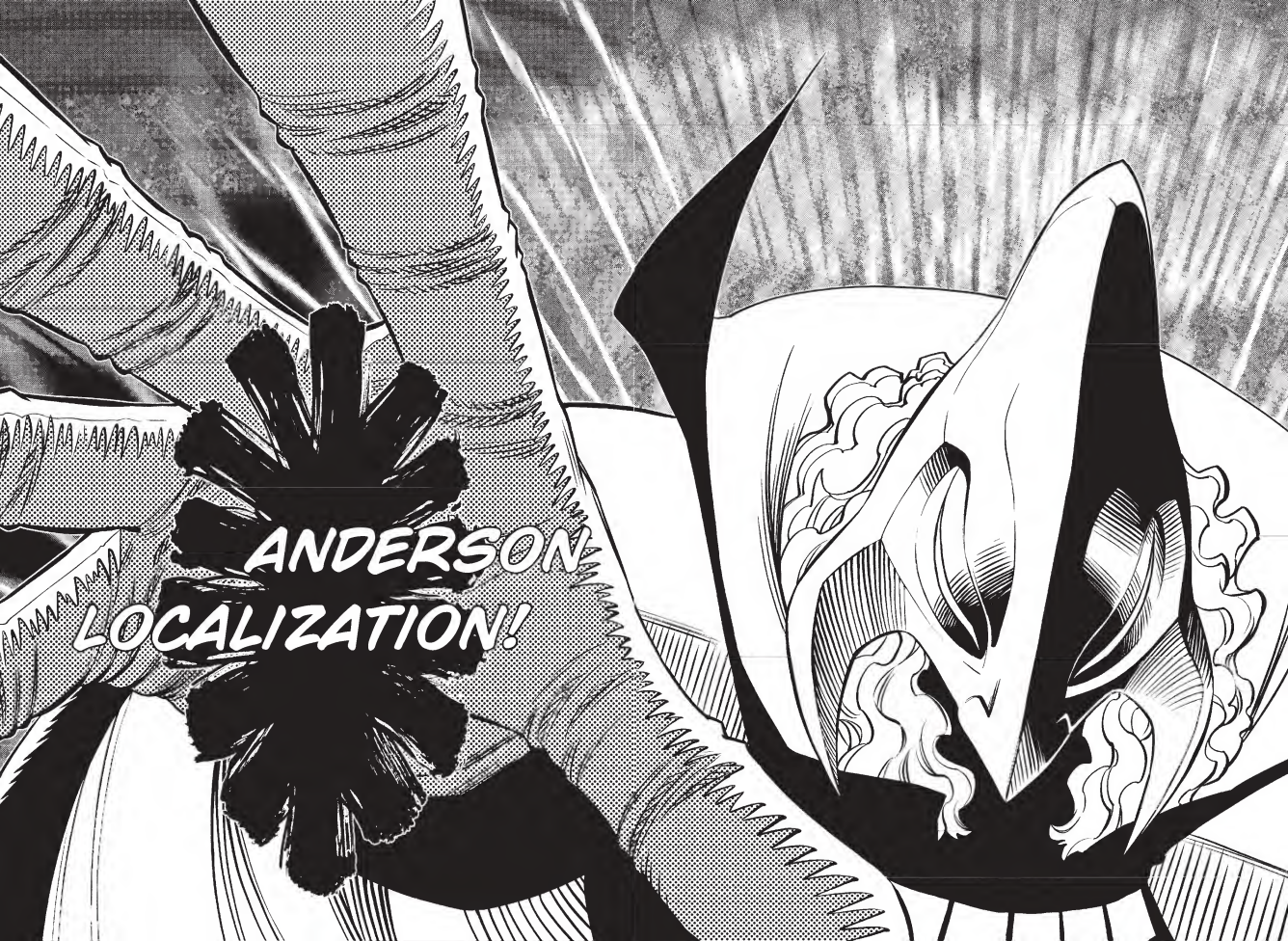
AH?!
FSST

WH...
WHAT AM I DOING...?


PERHAPS HE'S BECOME AWARE OF THE SAMURAI CODE!
WHAT IS THIS?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! SECHS IS COMMITTING HARA-KIRI!

THE JEWEL OF THE MESMER STYLE...
FOOM

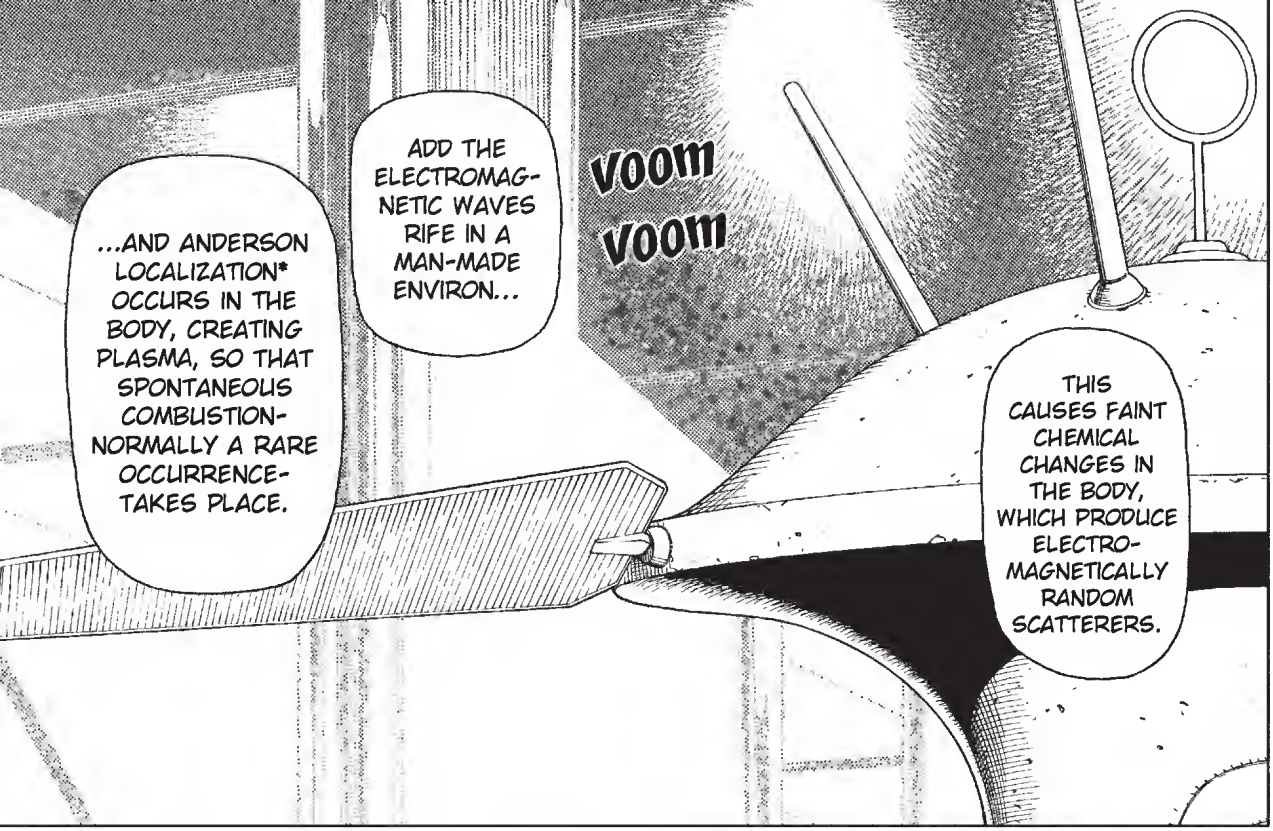
TIME TO MAKE THIS AN INTERACTIVE EVENT!
AH! WE'RE IN FULL SWING!

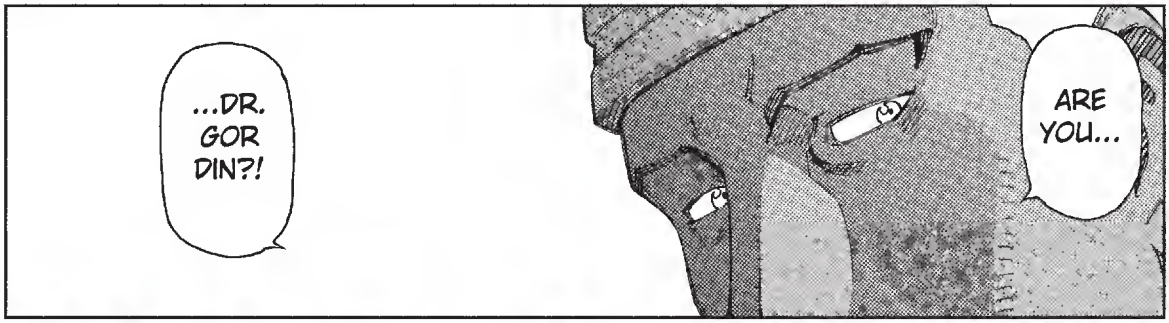

ANDERSON
LOCALIZATION!

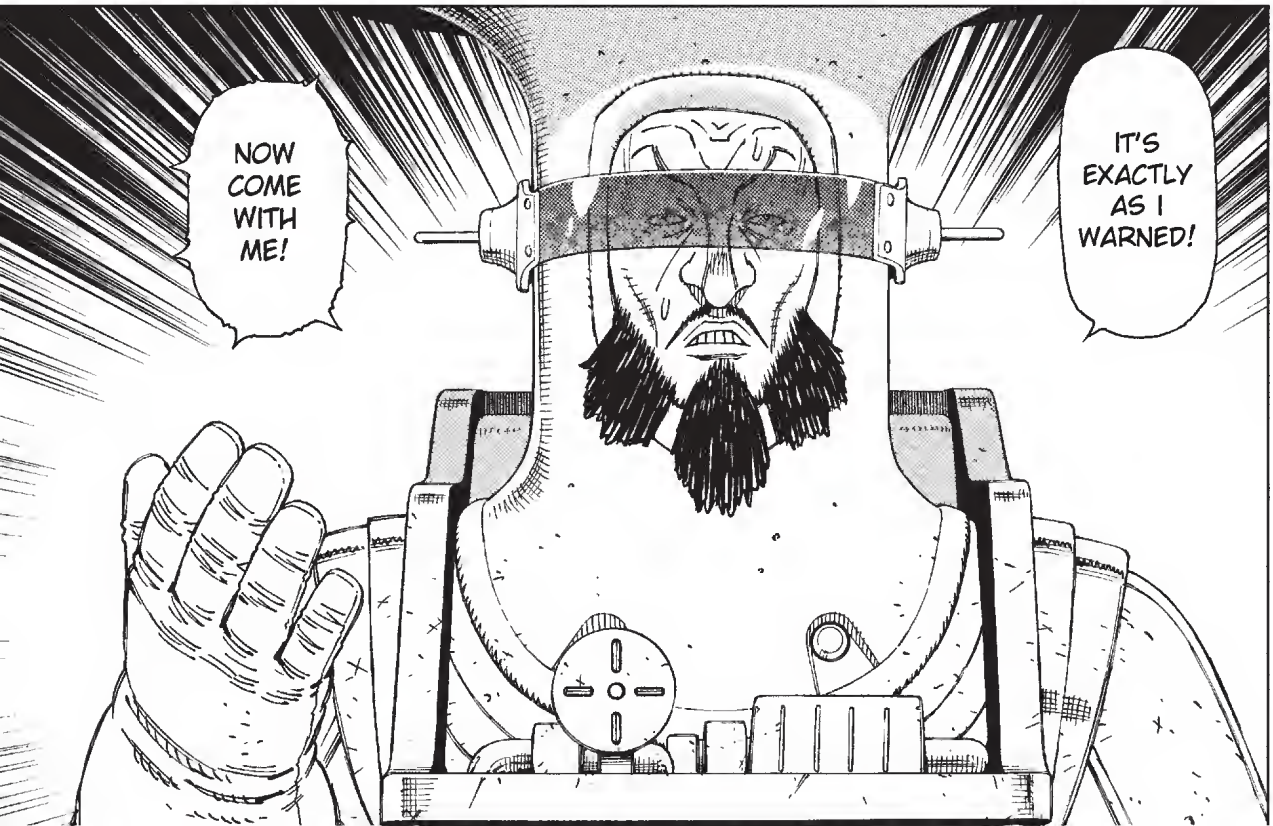
FIRE!
WMF!
EE!
FMF!
AH!
WAAAHHH
YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES, "MIND OVER MATTER"!
IT'S ONLY AN ILLUSION, JACK!
WOOSH
AND SO ARE YOU!
WHAT!? THE AUDIENCE– THEY'RE CATCHING FIRE?!
DO YOU LIKE MY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE?
HA, HA, HA!

BWOOSH
KOFF!
IS THIS IN MY MIND? OR IS IT REAL?
DAMN! I CAN'T TELL ANYMORE!
!!
FSST
HOW IS HE MAKING PEOPLE IGNITE! ONLY THE VISIBLE SPECTRUM CAN PASS THROUGH THE ARENA'S SHIELD!
M-MR. MBADI ...!
THIS IS REAL! BUT...
BEEP
EMERGENCY
FIRE ALARM
FIRE ALARM! FIRE ALARM!

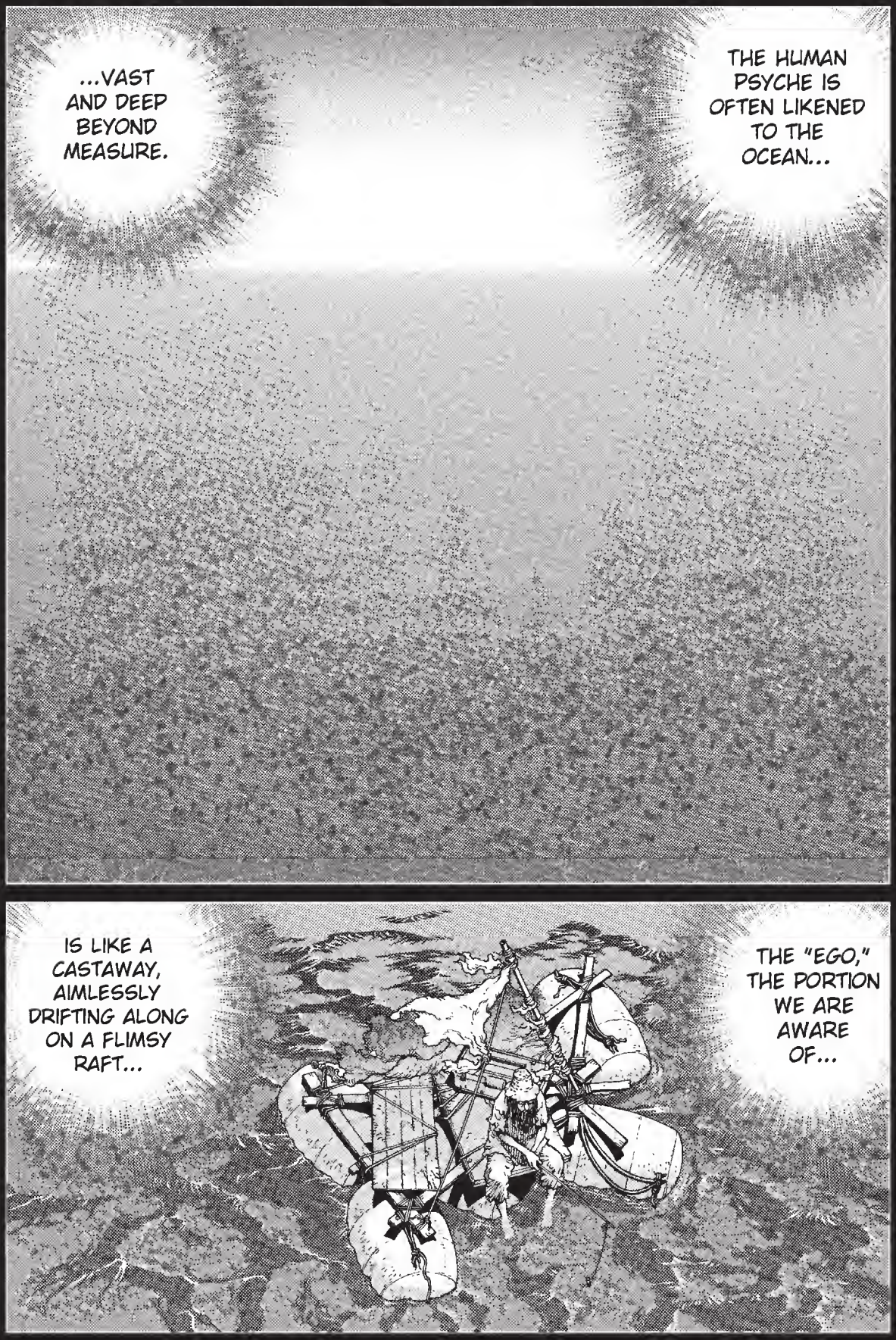
***Anderson localization:** A phenomenon in which electrons and electromagnetic waves reflect randomly into spatially limited (localized) states. In this state, electromagnetic waves may be amplified up to ten thousand times the energy of the incident wave. The concept was theorized in 1958 by P.W. Anderson (b. 1923).*

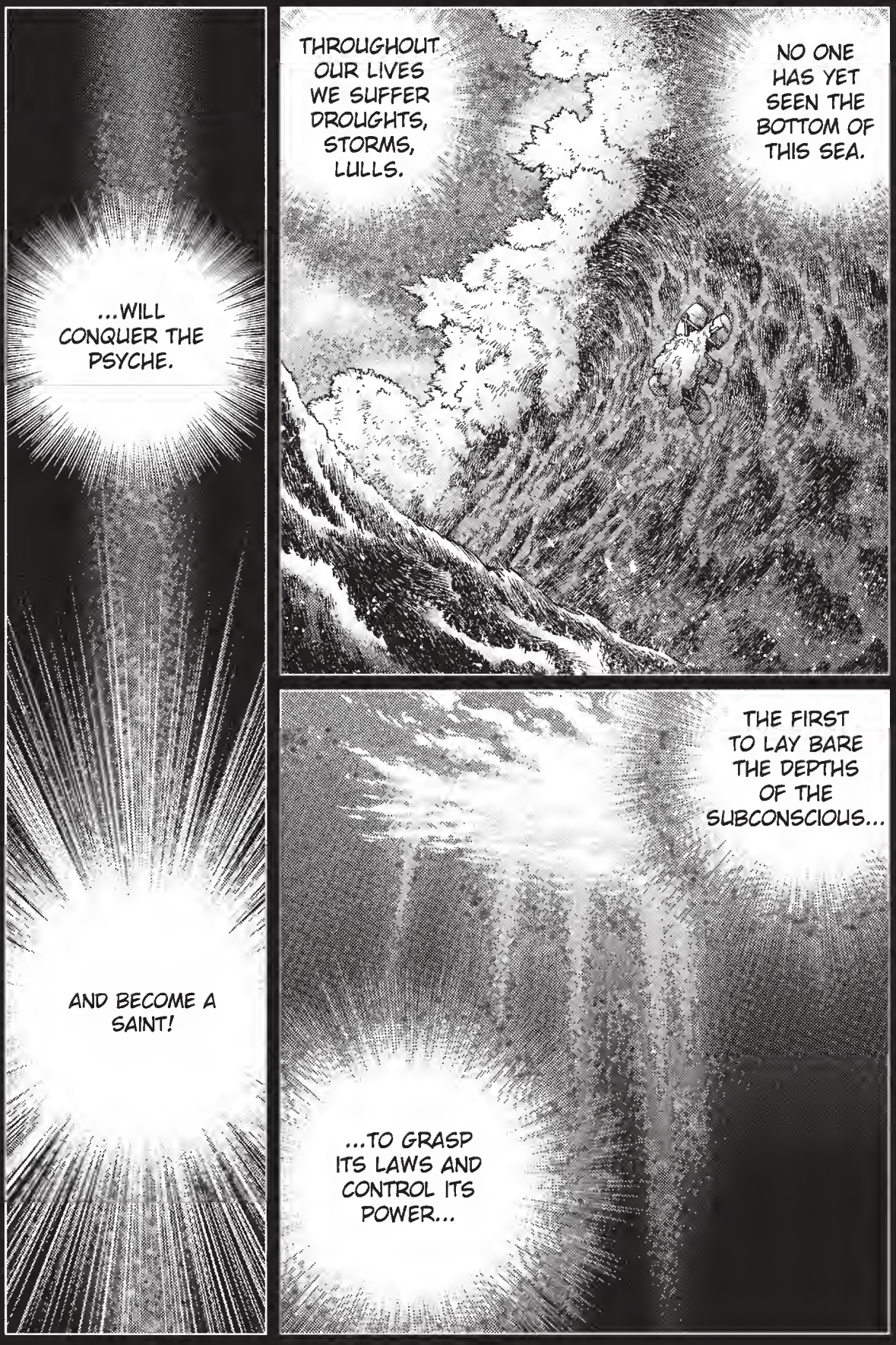

THIS CAUSES FAINT CHEMICAL CHANGES IN THE BODY, WHICH PRODUCE ELECTRO-MAGNETICALLY RANDOM SCATTERERS.
voom voom
ADD THE ELECTROMAG-NETIC WAVES RIFE IN A MAN-MADE ENVIRON...
...AND ANDERSON LOCALIZATION* OCCURS IN THE BODY, CREATING PLASMA, SO THAT SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION-NORMALLY A RARE OCCURRENCE-TAKES PLACE.


ARE YOU...
...DR. GOR DIN?!


IT'S EXACTLY AS I WARNED!
NOW COME WITH ME!

PHASE 43:
My Son of Chaos

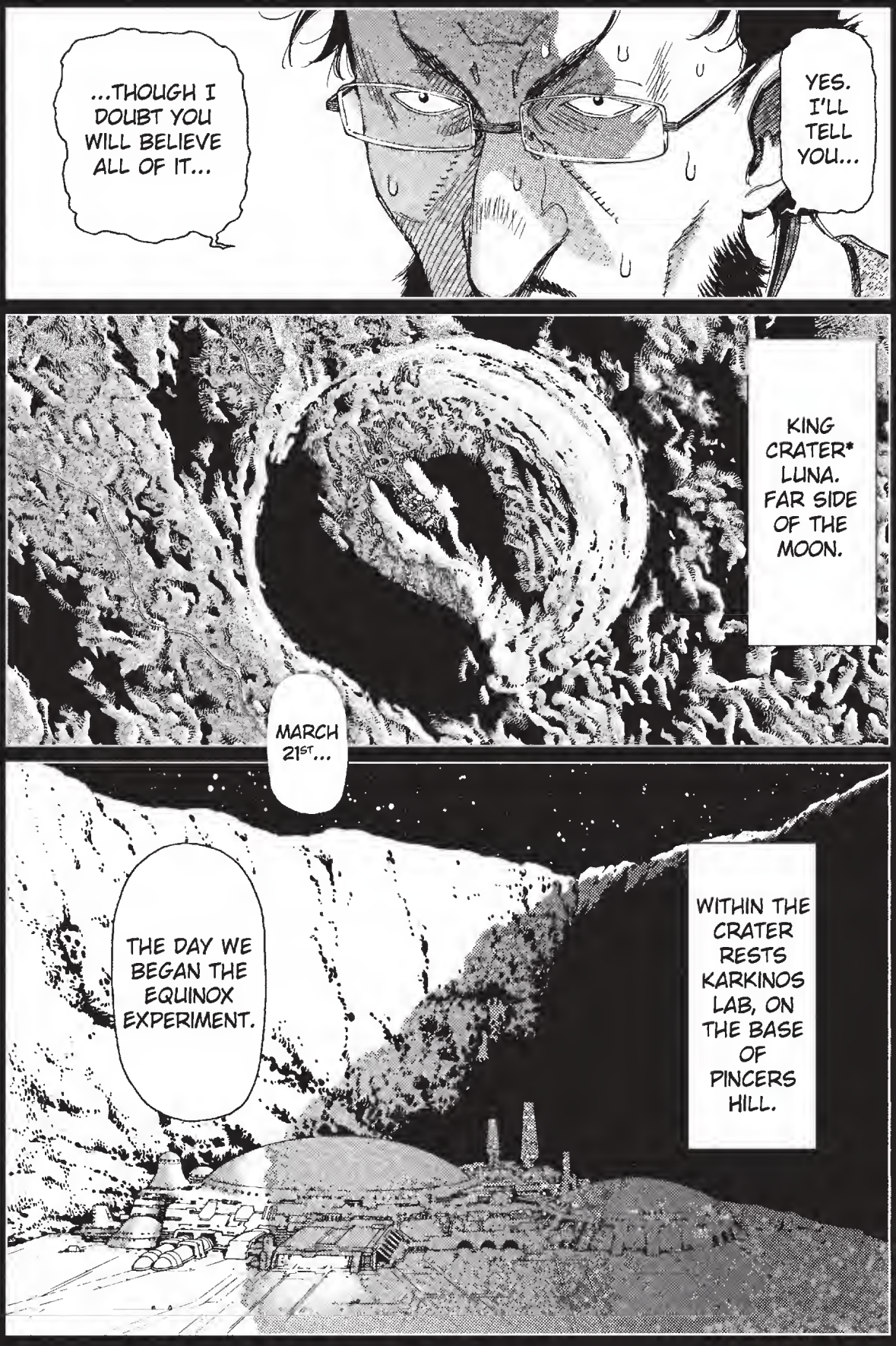

...VAST AND DEEP BEYOND MEASURE.
THE HUMAN PSYCHE IS OFTEN LIKENED TO THE OCEAN...
IS LIKE A CASTAWAY, AIMLESSLY DRIFTING ALONG ON A FLIMSY RAFT...
THE "EGO," THE PORTION WE ARE AWARE OF...


THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES WE SUFFER DROUGHTS, STORMS, LULLS.
NO ONE HAS YET SEEN THE BOTTOM OF THIS SEA.
THE FIRST TO LAY BARE THE DEPTHS OF THE SUBCONSCIOUS...
...TO GRASP ITS LAWS AND CONTROL ITS POWER...
...WILL CONQUER THE PSYCHE.
AND BECOME A SAINT!

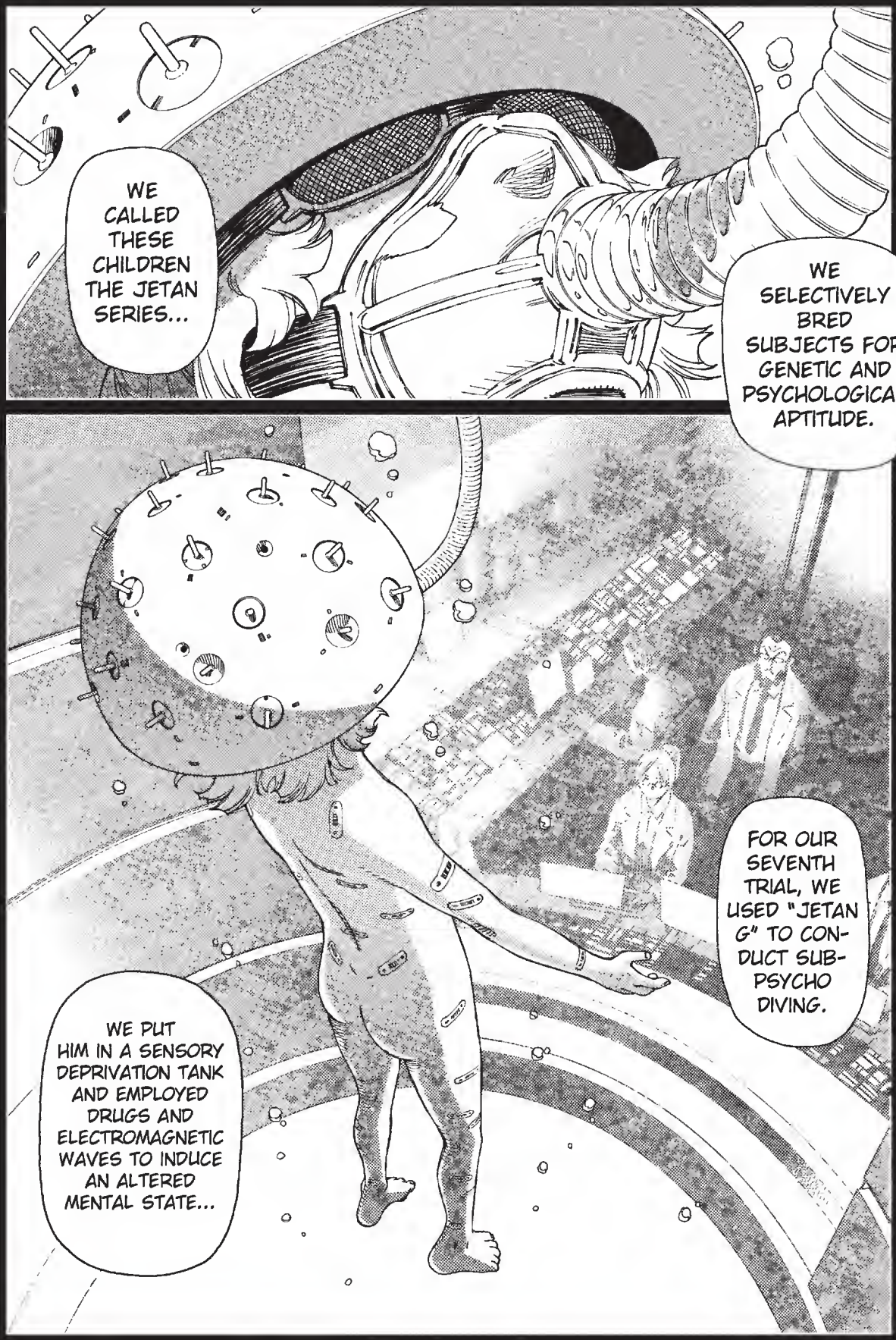
April 9, ES 582
Police interview—Karkinos Research Lab

EXAMINER: "ALL THE OTHER STAFF RESCUED WITH YOU DIED MYSTERIOUSLY. YOU ARE NOW THE SOLE SURVIVOR."

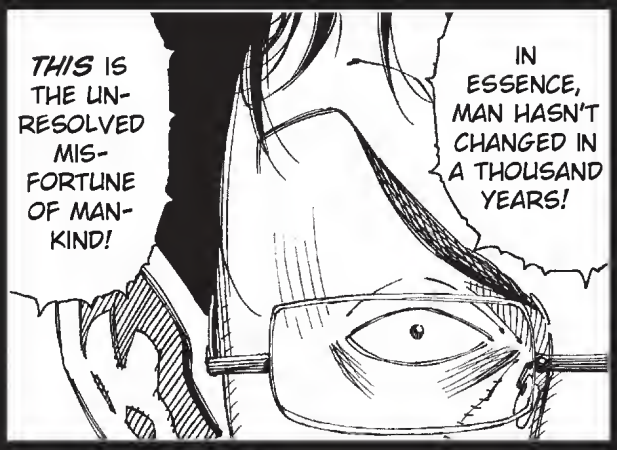
EXAMINER: "WILL YOU TELL US ABOUT THE EVENTS OF THAT DAY AT THE LAB?"

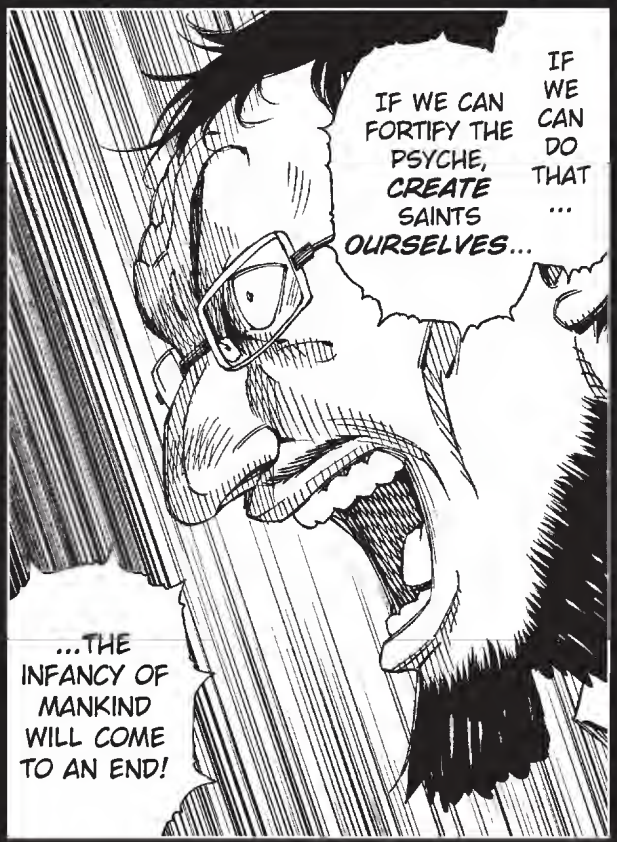


***King Crater:** A crater measuring 76 km in diameter at 5° N latitude, 120° E longitude.*


WE CALLED THESE CHILDREN THE JETAN SERIES...
WE SELECTIVELY BRED SUBJECTS FOR GENETIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL APTITUDE.
FOR OUR SEVENTH TRIAL, WE USED "JETAN G" TO CONDUCT SUB-PSYCHO DIVING.
WE PUT HIM IN A SENSORY DEPRIVATION TANK AND EMPLOYED DRUGS AND ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES TO INDUCE AN ALTERED MENTAL STATE...

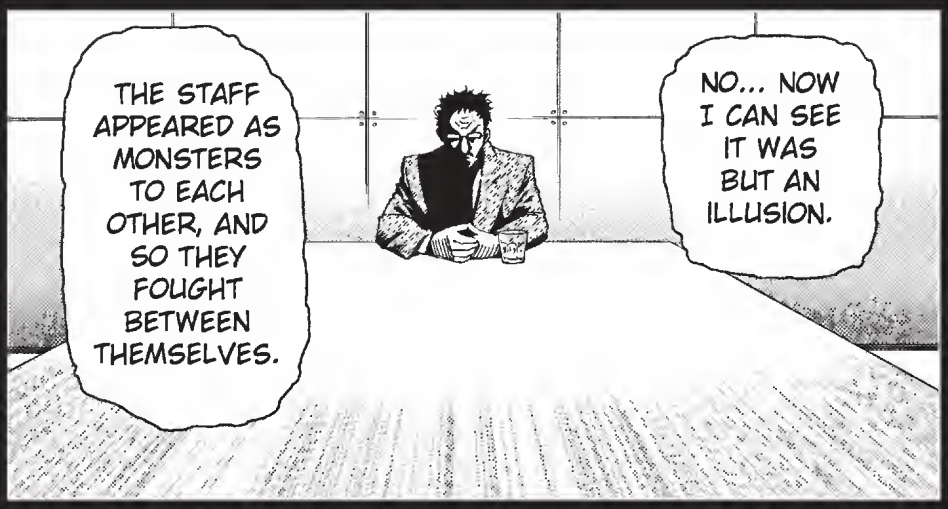
EXAMINER: "AND THE PURPOSE OF THIS EXPERIMENT? WHAT WAS IT?"



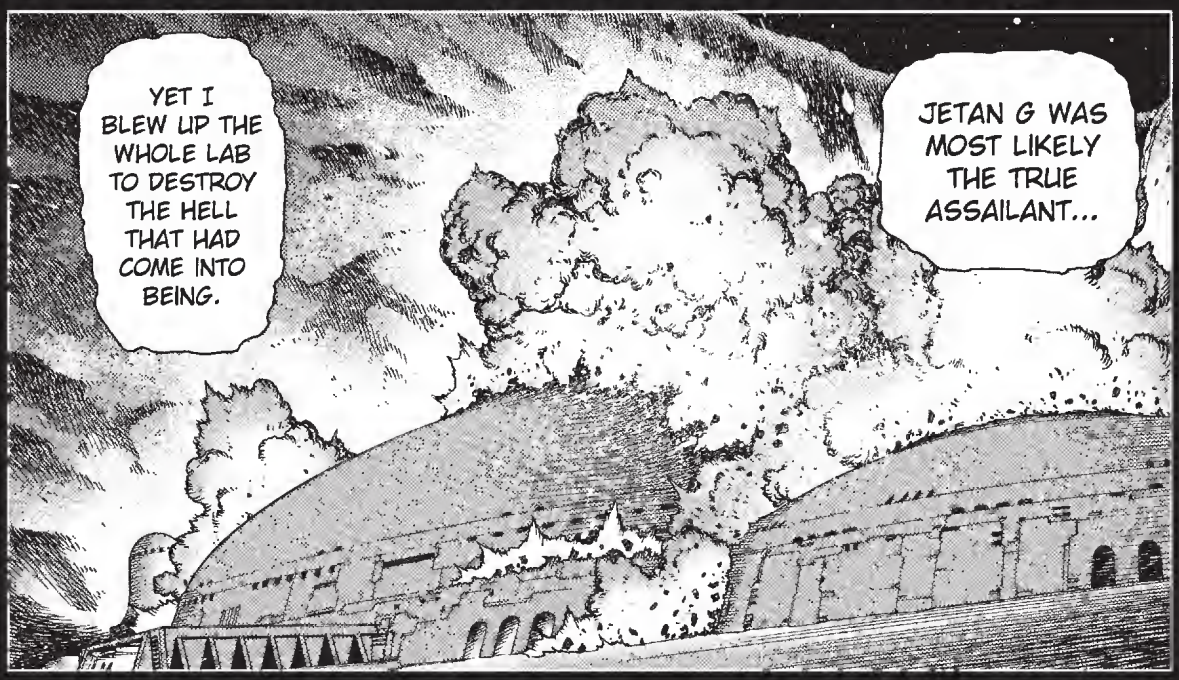


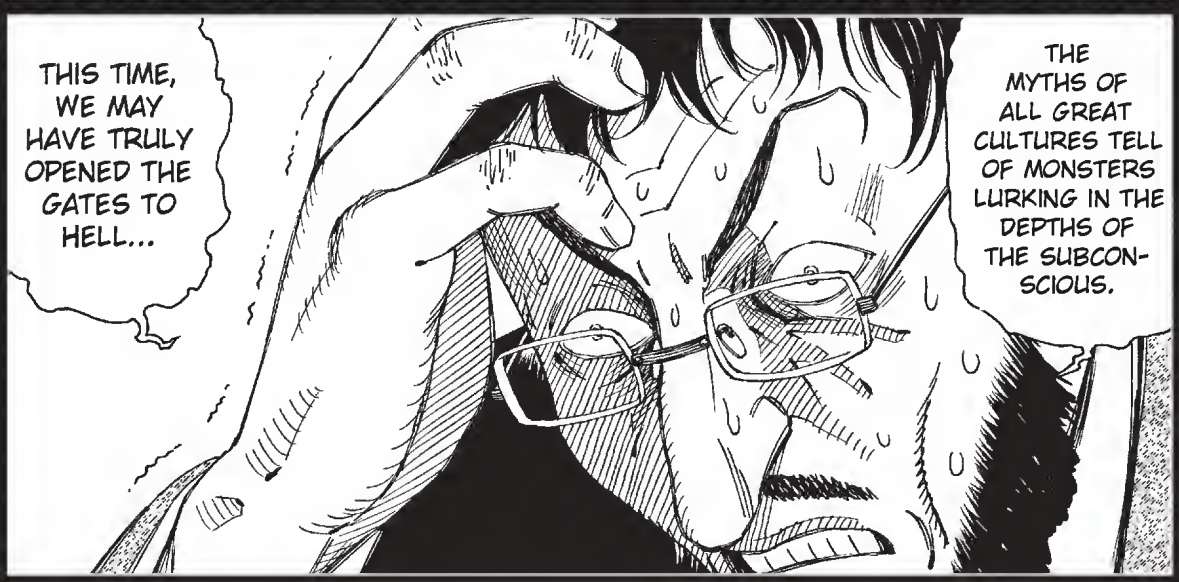
***Hypnotic depth:** A scale that objectvely expresses the depth of a hypnotic state. This scale has not been standardized, as a variety of scales have been proposed by different researchers; Dr. Gor Din's original method has incorporated the metric system into this scale.*

WE'RE BEYOND MAX PRESSURE! JETAN G'S LIFE IS IN DANGER!
GLAH!
IT WOULD BE A CRIME AGAINST SCIENCE TO END OUR PROBE HERE!
GENTLE-MEN, WE'VE ENTERED UNCHARTED TERRITORY!
?!
GLAAA
THE PSYCHOLOGICAL REEF BLOCKING THE WELL'S ENTRANCE... REMOVE IT WITH PHARMACO-DEPTH CHARGES!
YES, SIR!
WE MUST GO ON!



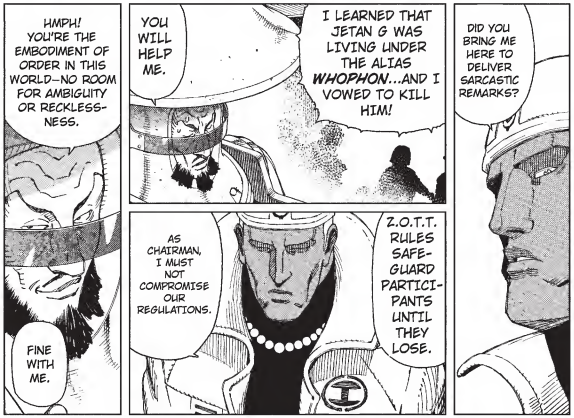
EXAMINER: "...AND THE MONSTERS THAT ERUPTED FORTH... THEY ATE THE STAFF?"





AAA

GGHH
The present day
Ketheres Onion Frame
Z.O.T. Round 2, Match 1

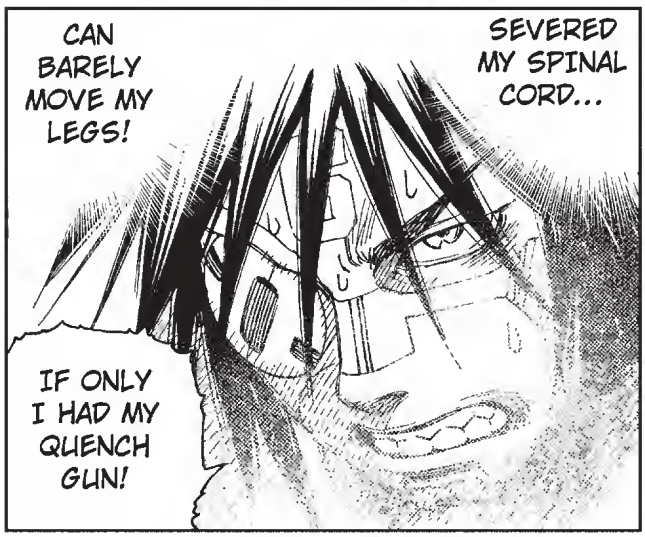

HMPH! YOU'RE THE EMBODIMENT OF ORDER IN THIS WORLD—NO ROOM FOR AMBIGUITY OR RECKLESSNESS.
FINE WITH ME.
YOU WILL HELP ME.
I LEARNED THAT JETAN G WAS LIVING UNDER THE ALIAS WHOPHON...AND I VOWED TO KILL HIM!
AS CHAIRMAN, I MUST NOT COMPROMISE OUR REGULATIONS.
Z.O.T.T. RULES SAFEGUARD PARTICIPANTS UNTIL THEY LOSE.
DID YOU BRING ME HERE TO DELIVER SARCASTIC REMARKS?

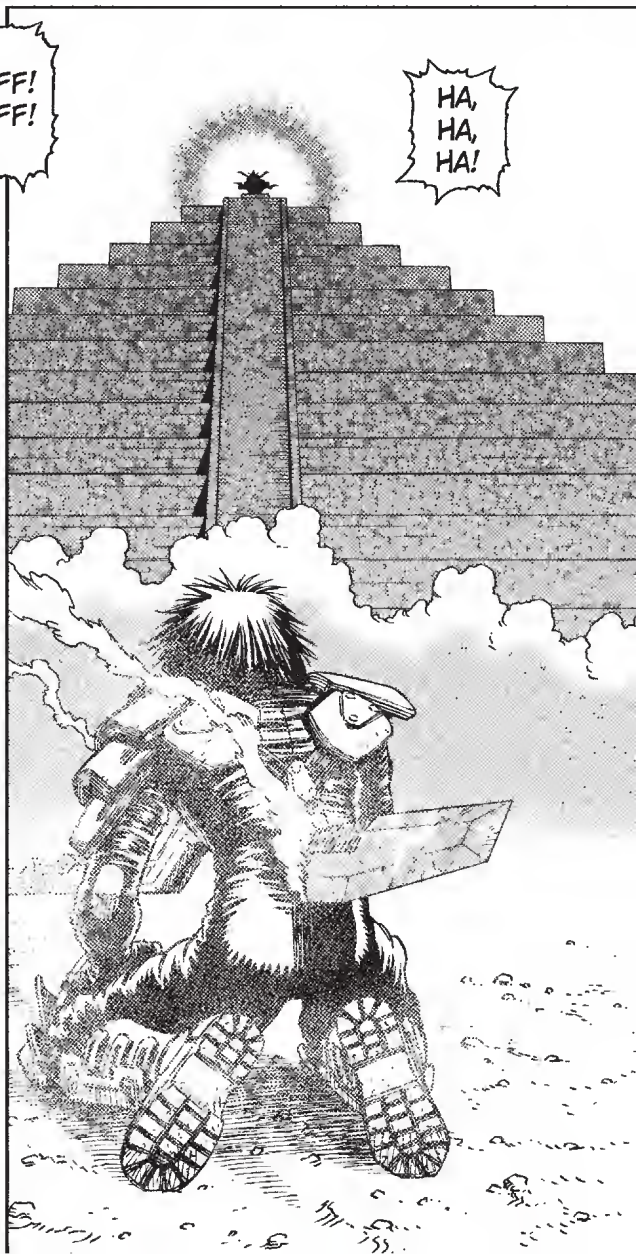
AAGH
REMINDS ME OF THE LAB NINE YEARS AGO!
...
WHEN I WARNED YOU OF THIS, YOU TOLD ME THE MAGIC TROUPE SHOULD BE WIPED OUT IN THE PRELIMS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK NOW?

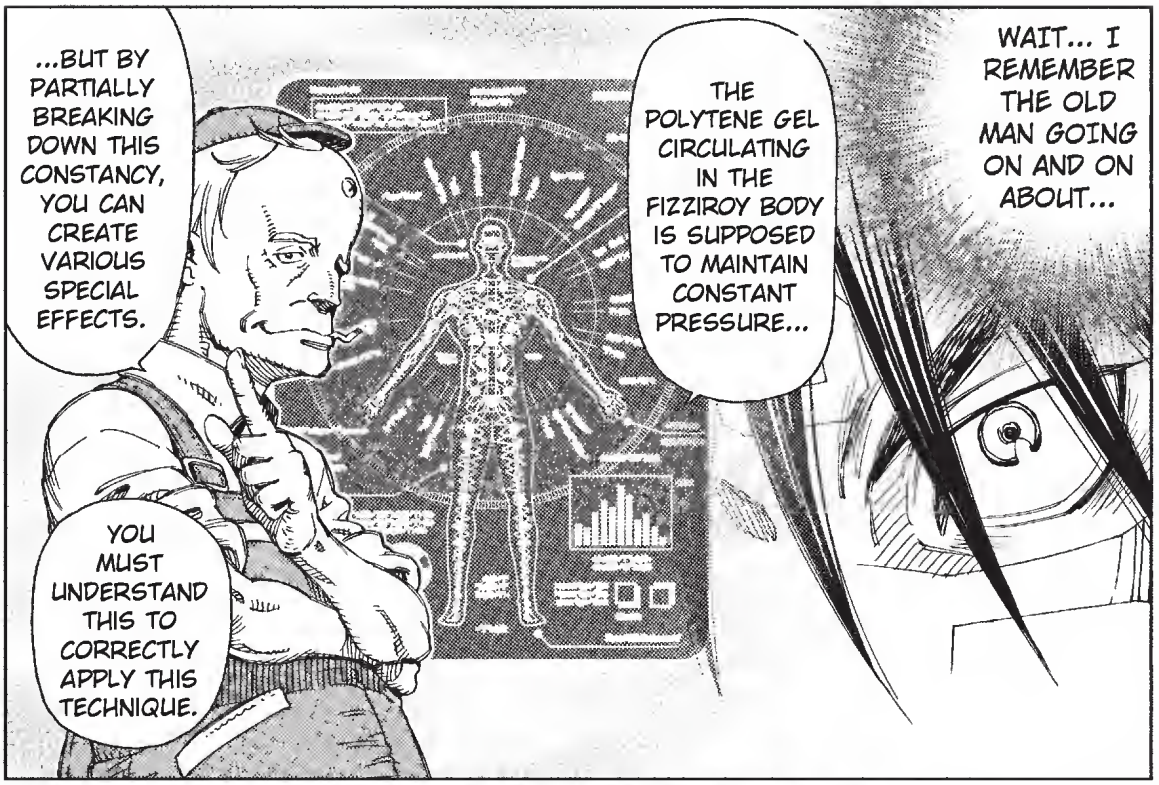
THESE FLAMES! WE CAN'T SNUFF 'EM OUT!
GAAH!
WOOF!
FSSHT

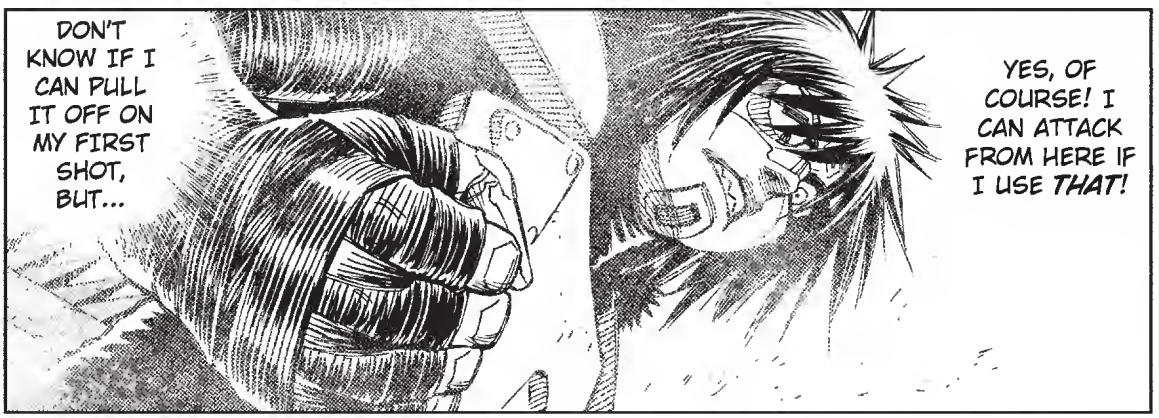
HA, HA, HA, HA! BURN, BURN, BURN, BURN, BURN!
ALL PEOPLE SHOULD BURN!

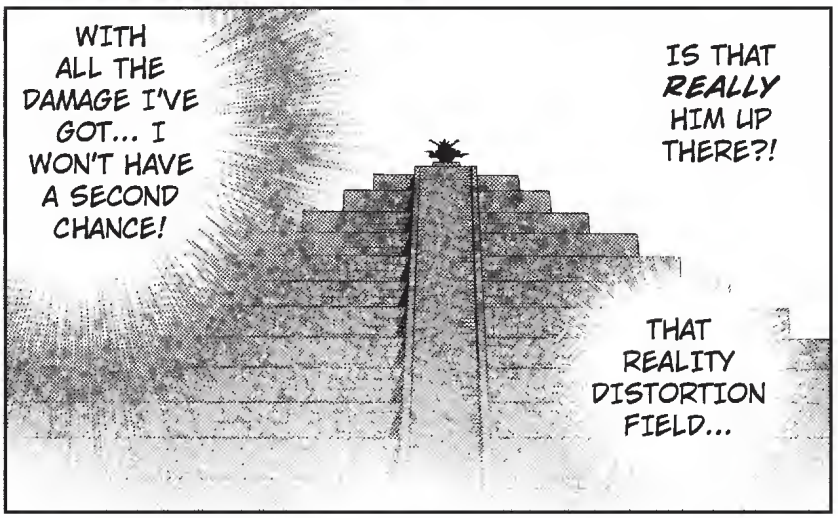
KOFF! KOFF!
WISH WOOM


CAN BARELY MOVE MY LEGS!
SEVERED MY SPINAL CORD...
IF ONLY I HAD MY QUENCH GUN!


HA, HA, HA!


...BUT BY PARTIALLY BREAKING DOWN THIS CONSTANCY, YOU CAN CREATE VARIOUS SPECIAL EFFECTS.
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THIS TO CORRECTLY APPLY THIS TECHNIQUE.
THE POLYTENE GEL CIRCULATING IN THE FIZZIROY BODY IS SUPPOSED TO MAINTAIN CONSTANT PRESSURE...
WAIT... I REMEMBER THE OLD MAN GOING ON AND ON ABOUT...

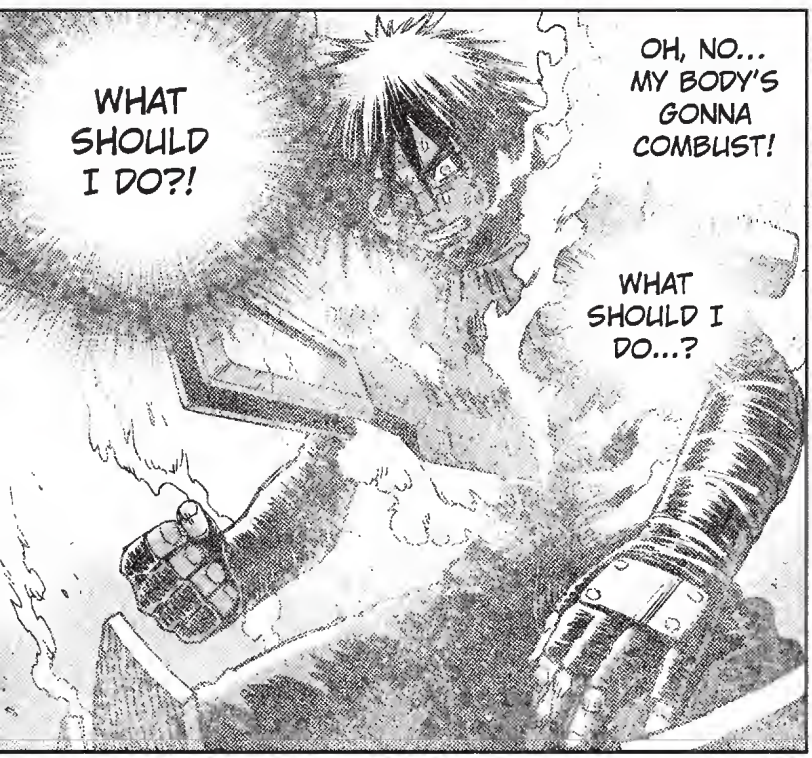

DON'T KNOW IF I CAN PULL IT OFF ON MY FIRST SHOT, BUT...
YES, OF COURSE! I CAN ATTACK FROM HERE IF I USE *THAT*!


WITH ALL THE DAMAGE I'VE GOT... I WON'T HAVE A SECOND CHANCE!
IS THAT *REALLY* HIM UP THERE?!
THAT REALITY DISTORTION FIELD...

WAIT...!
TCH

A TRAP?! IS THAT IT?!
IF I WERE HIM, I SURE WOULDN'T STAND OUT THERE IN THE OPEN...
DO I TAKE MY CHANCES AND GO FOR IT?!
GNCH
BUT IF I STALL, HIS DAMN ANDERSON LOCALIZATION WILL EAT ME AWAY!
ISN'T THAT HOW I LOST TO QU TSANG !?
I'M ALWAYS JUMPING THE GUN WITHOUT THINKING!
ALITA'S FIGHTING TECHNIQUE MAY SEEM RANDOM, BUT SHE'S ALWAYS GOT A STRATEGY!
BUT WAIT!
WAIT!

F.O.M
KOFF!


WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
OH, NO... MY BODY'S GONNA COMBUST!
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

jing!

!

BUT THEN AGAIN...
...I'M TOO STUPID TO STRATEGIZE!

BL
AM
GOT YA!

KKOOM
ZAM ZAM ZAM
BAM!
...
HE STRIKES! ...AT THIN AIR?!

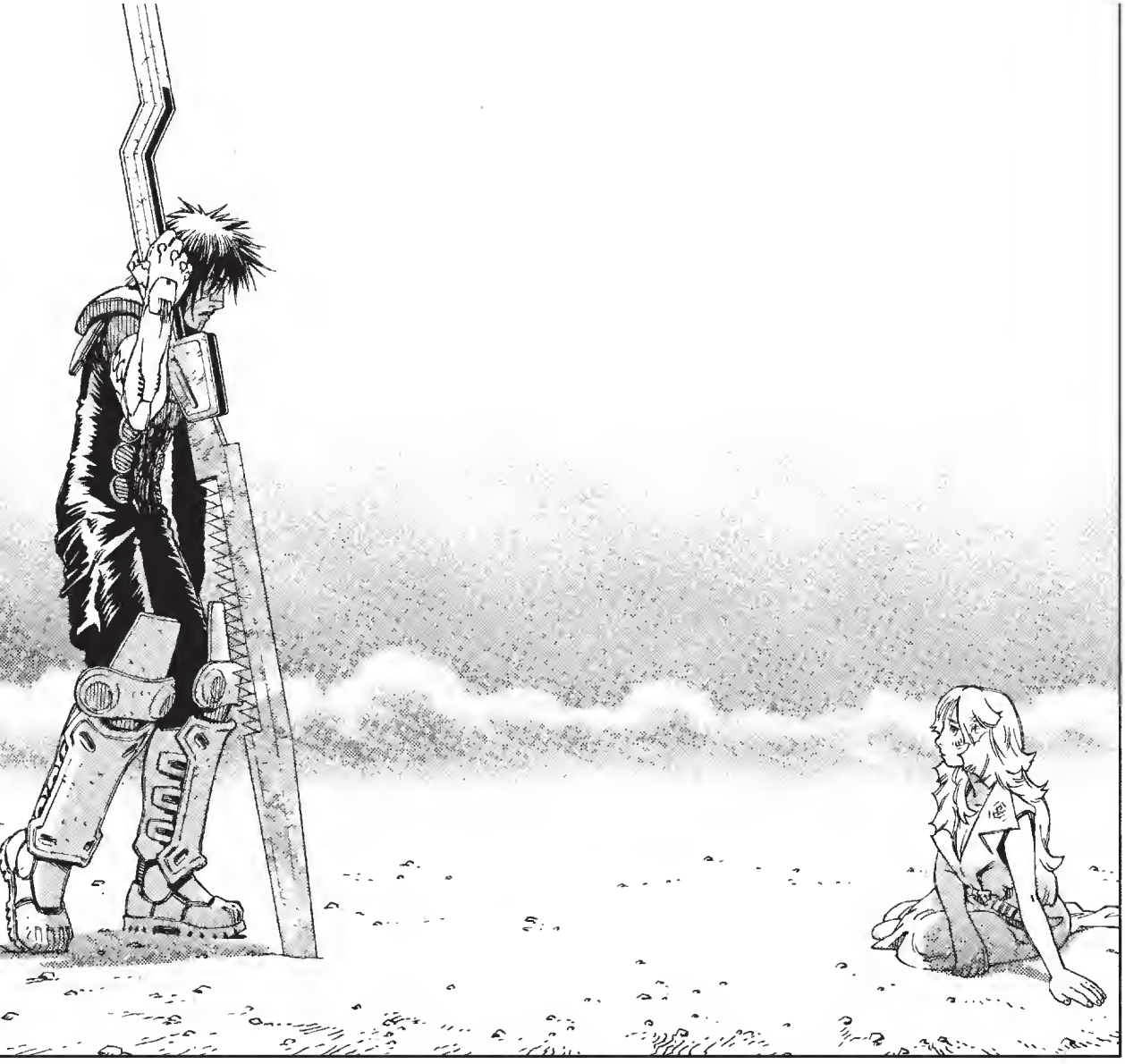
SHAAAA
WHAT?! BOTH THE PYRAMID AND WHOPON HAVE DISAPPEARED! IT'S AS IF IT WAS ALL A MISTY MIRAGE!
ONLY THE HEAPS OF CORPSES BELONGING TO THE CULT'S FEMALE DEVOTEES REMAIN!
TNK
FSST
OH MY! A MAN HAS BEEN PIERCED CLEAN THROUGH BY THE FIST OF THE GREAT SECHS!
...DID YOU KNOW... WHERE I WAS?
HOW...

I GUESS YOU CAN'T FAKE A REFLECTION IN A MIRROR!
THIS.
WAM
I'LL LOOK INTO THAT.
AH, I SEE.
KA
SPLIT
KEEEE

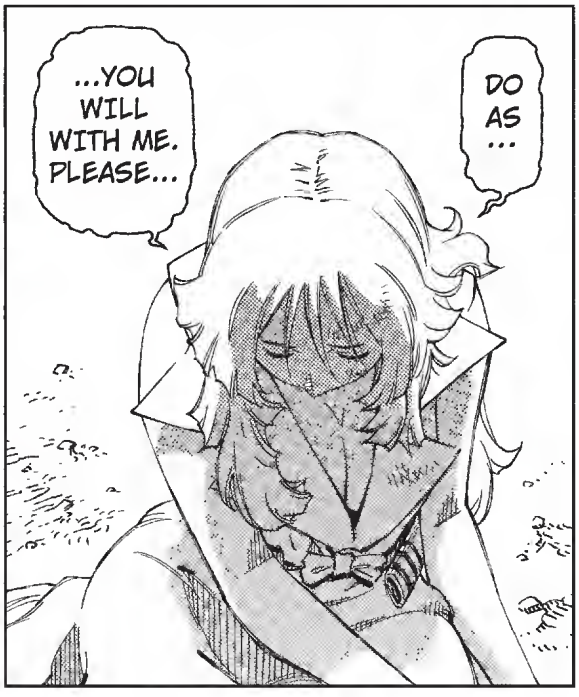
SNIK
POP
STICKING IT OUT AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR LED TO VICTORY!
HFF
I... I DID IT!
UFF
WMP
IS THIS PERSEVERANCE, NIZ...?
AND SO IT ENDS.
YOUR CONCERN WAS UNFOUNDED.
OOOH

THEN WHERE IS HE NOW?!
WHAT ?
...
HE USED A DOUBLE, NOTHING MORE.
YOU STILL DON'T SEE.

HOLD ON A SEC'!
FSSH
AND THE SECOND ROUND GOES TO THE SPACE ANGELS... HUH?
HA!
SECHS TAKES OUT HIS FOE WITH A NEW LONG-RANGE PUNCH!
L-LORD WHOPHON...
THE SCORE-BOARD SAYS THE MATCH ISN'T OVER!
IT'S NOT?!
OH, WHAT A CRUEL JUDGMENT WE ARE DESTINED TO VIEW TODAY!
MISHA, THE SURVIVING FOLLOWER, APPEARS TO BE ON THE LIST OF ENTRANTS! RULES ARE RULES, BUT...



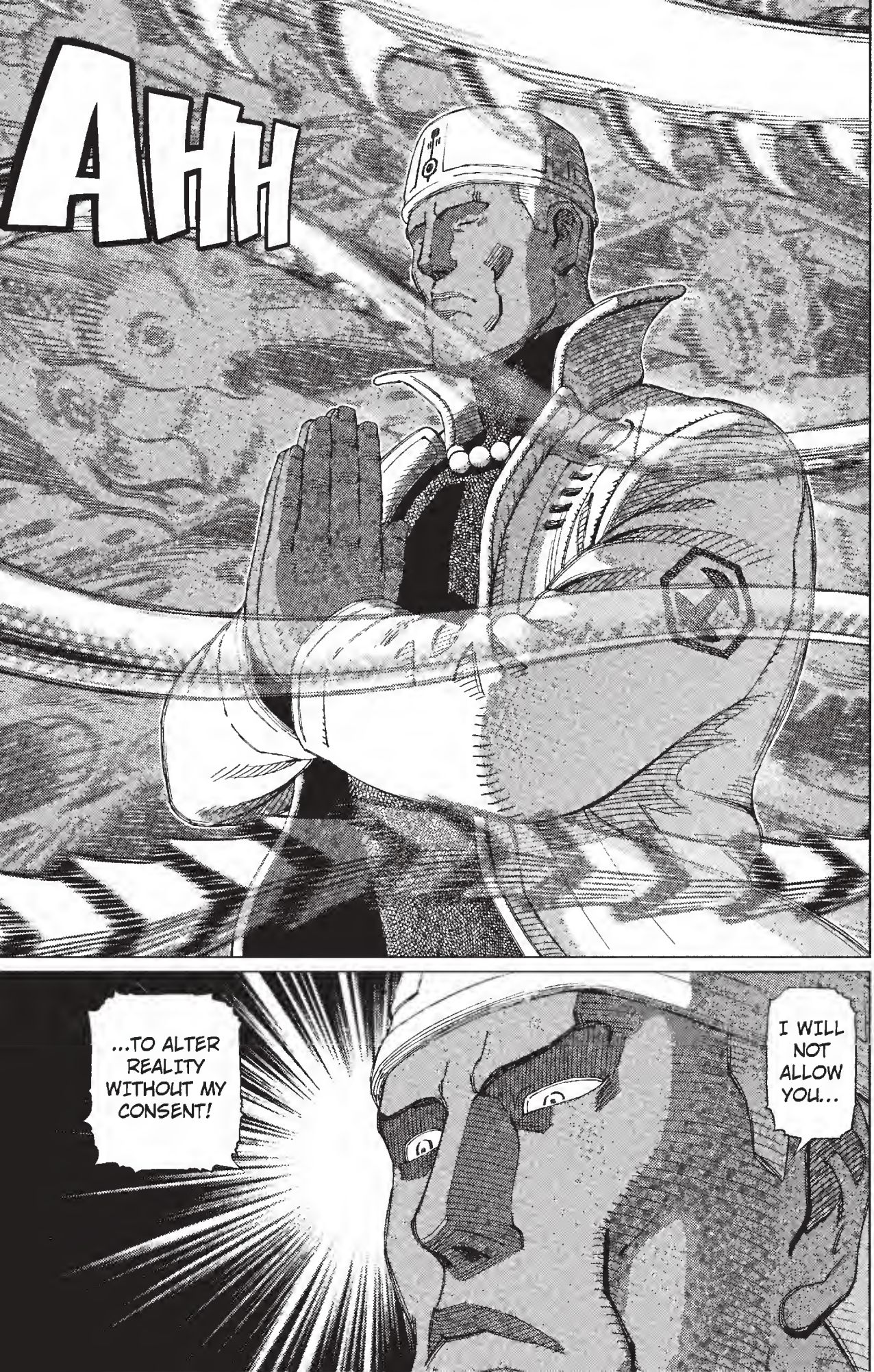
KILLING HER WOULD BE EASIER THAN CRUSHING AN ANT.


...YOU WILL WITH ME. PLEASE...
DO AS ...

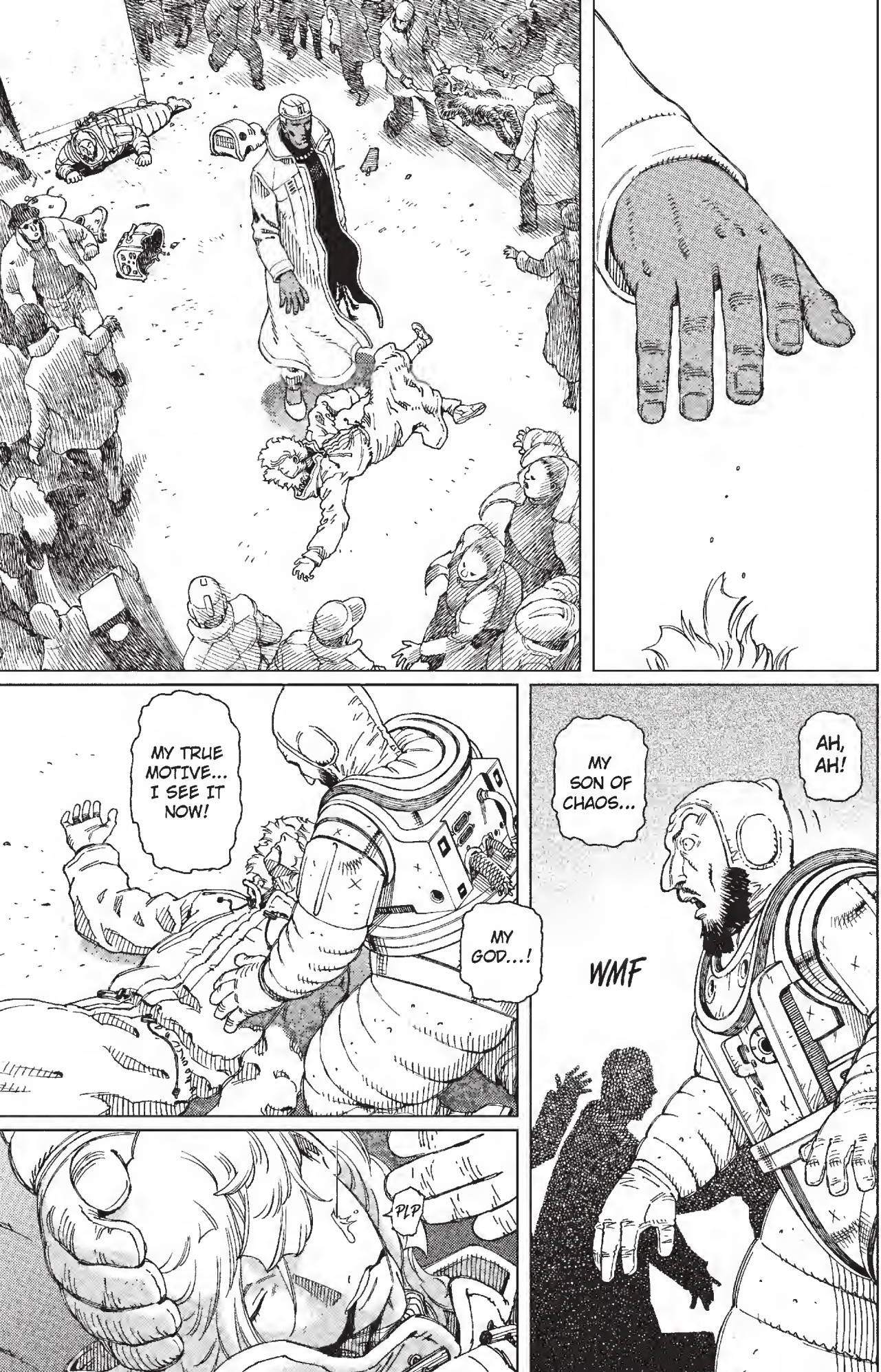
YOU TWO ...
YOU CAN SEE ME, I TAKE IT?
OUR TEAM PLACED A MICRO-CAPSULE IN YOUR BODY DURING THE EQUINOX EXPERIMENT.
WERE I TO PRESS THIS SWITCH, THE LETHAL DOSE IN THE PHARMACO-DEPTH CHARGES WOULD KILL YOU!
IS THAT SO?
YOU'D BEST PREPARE YOURSELF, JETAN G!
PNK!
YES! THIS ANTI-HYPNOTIC PROTO-SUIT MAKES ME IMPERVIOUS TO YOUR HYPNOTIC ABUSE!

TH
OOM
BLAM!
!

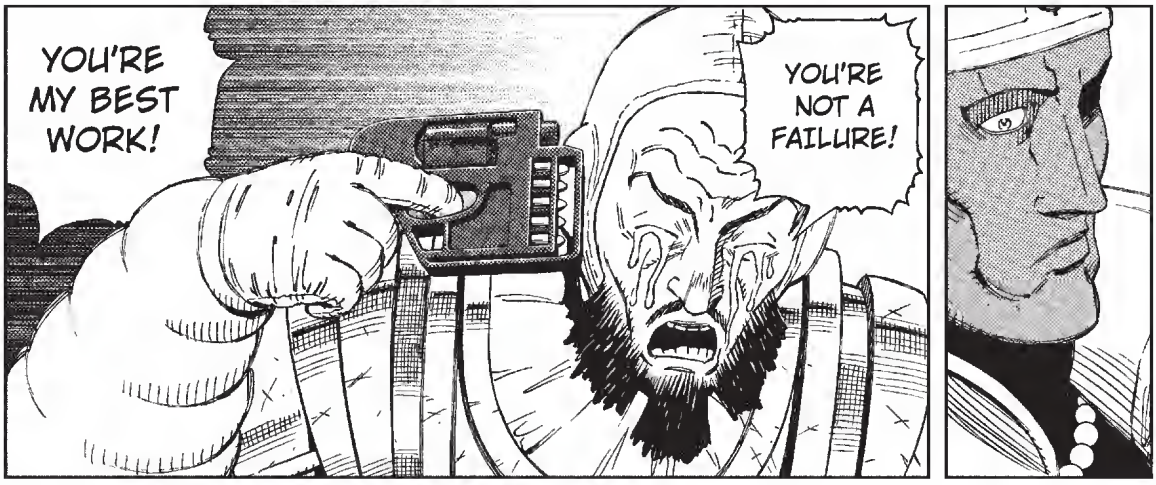
AH!
CLIK!
CLIK!
WUD
HOW IN HELL...?!
SKRK
WMP
WMP
WMP
!

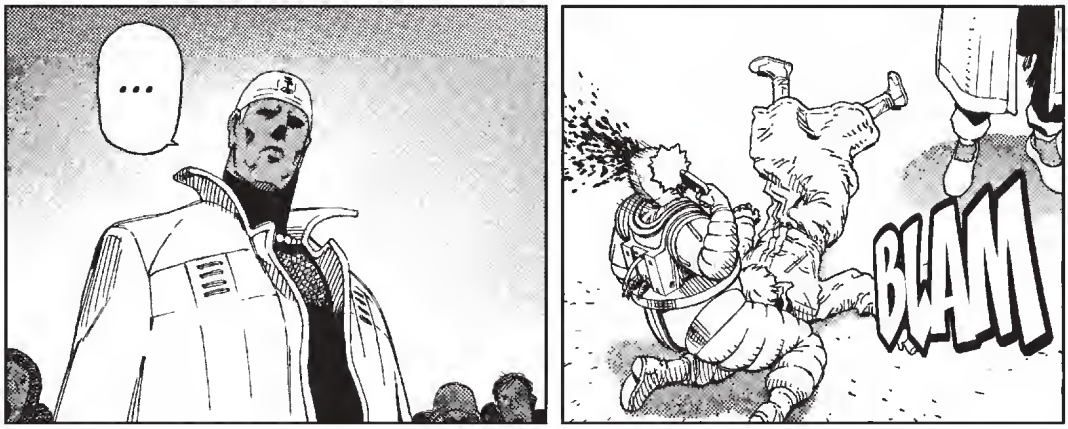

AHH
I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU...
...TO ALTER REALITY WITHOUT MY CONSENT!

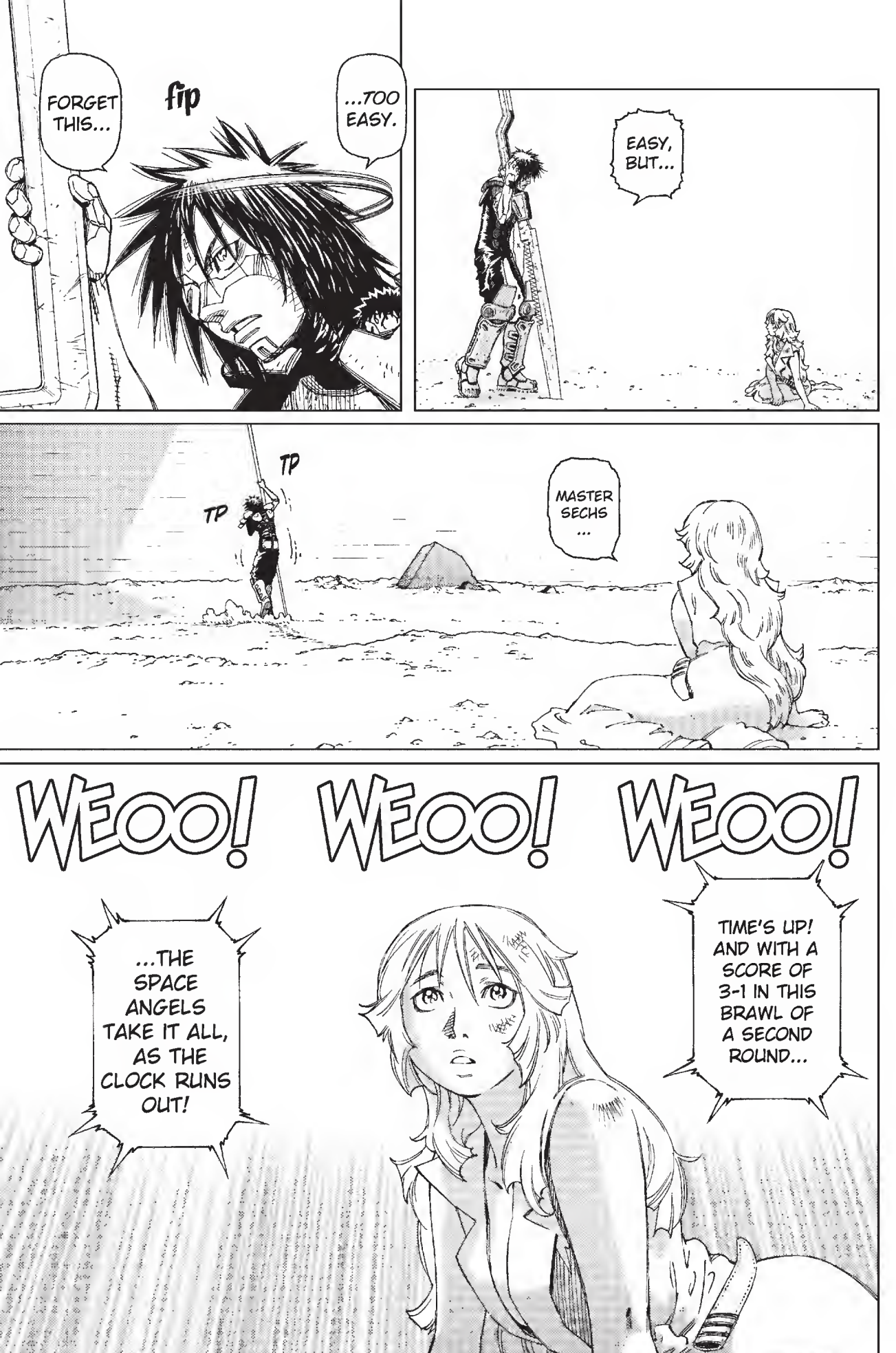
FWAP
SK
RAK

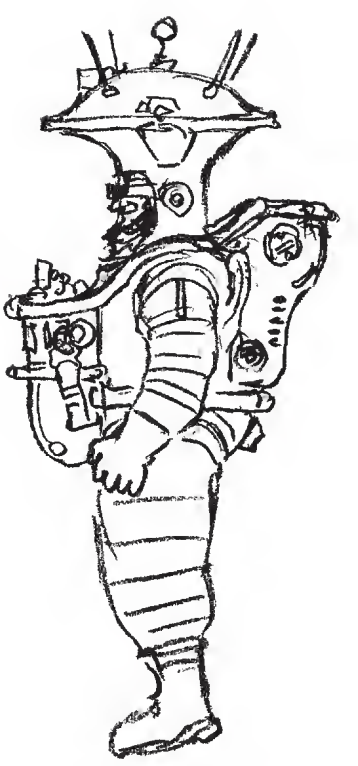

MY TRUE MOTIVE... I SEE IT NOW!
MY GOD...!
AH, AH!
MY SON OF CHAOS...
WMF
PLP

I THOUGHT *YOU*...MIGHT BE ABLE TO...BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS OF THIS WORLD...
...AND BE *THE ONE* TO BRING DOWN MBADI!
THAT WAS MY SECRET HOPE OF HOPES!

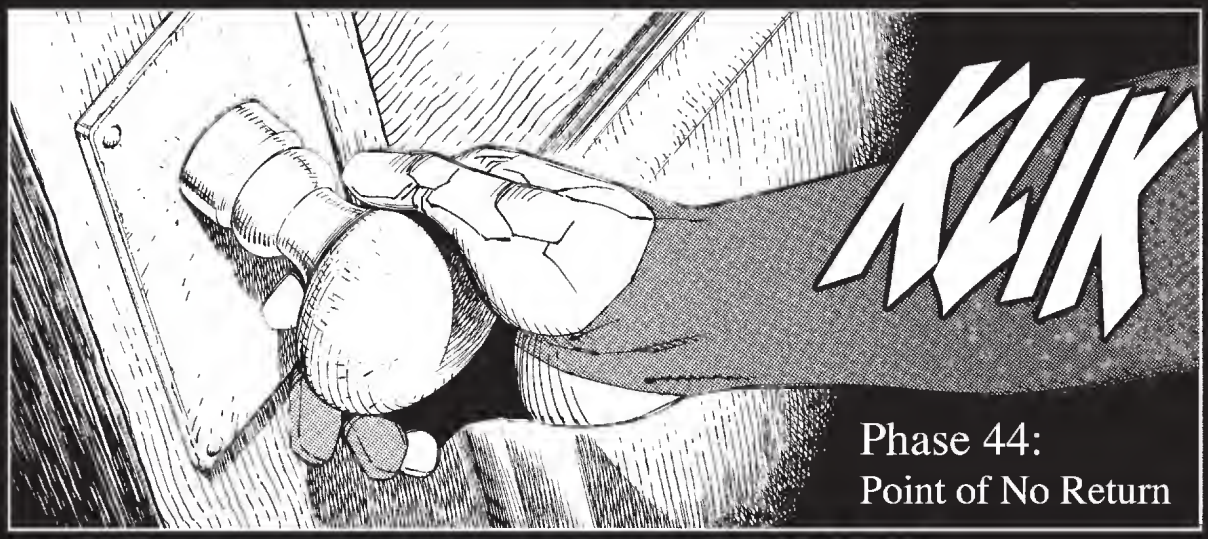

YOU'RE MY BEST WORK!
YOU'RE NOT A FAILURE!


...
BLAM


FORGET THIS...
flp
...TOO EASY.
EASY, BUT...
TP
TP
MASTER SECHS ...
WEOO!
WEOO!
WEOO!
...THE SPACE ANGELS TAKE IT ALL, AS THE CLOCK RUNS OUT!
TIME'S UP! AND WITH A SCORE OF 3-1 IN THIS BRAWL OF A SECOND ROUND...



HYPNOTIZER



Phase 44:
Point of No Return

PHASE 44: Point of No Return

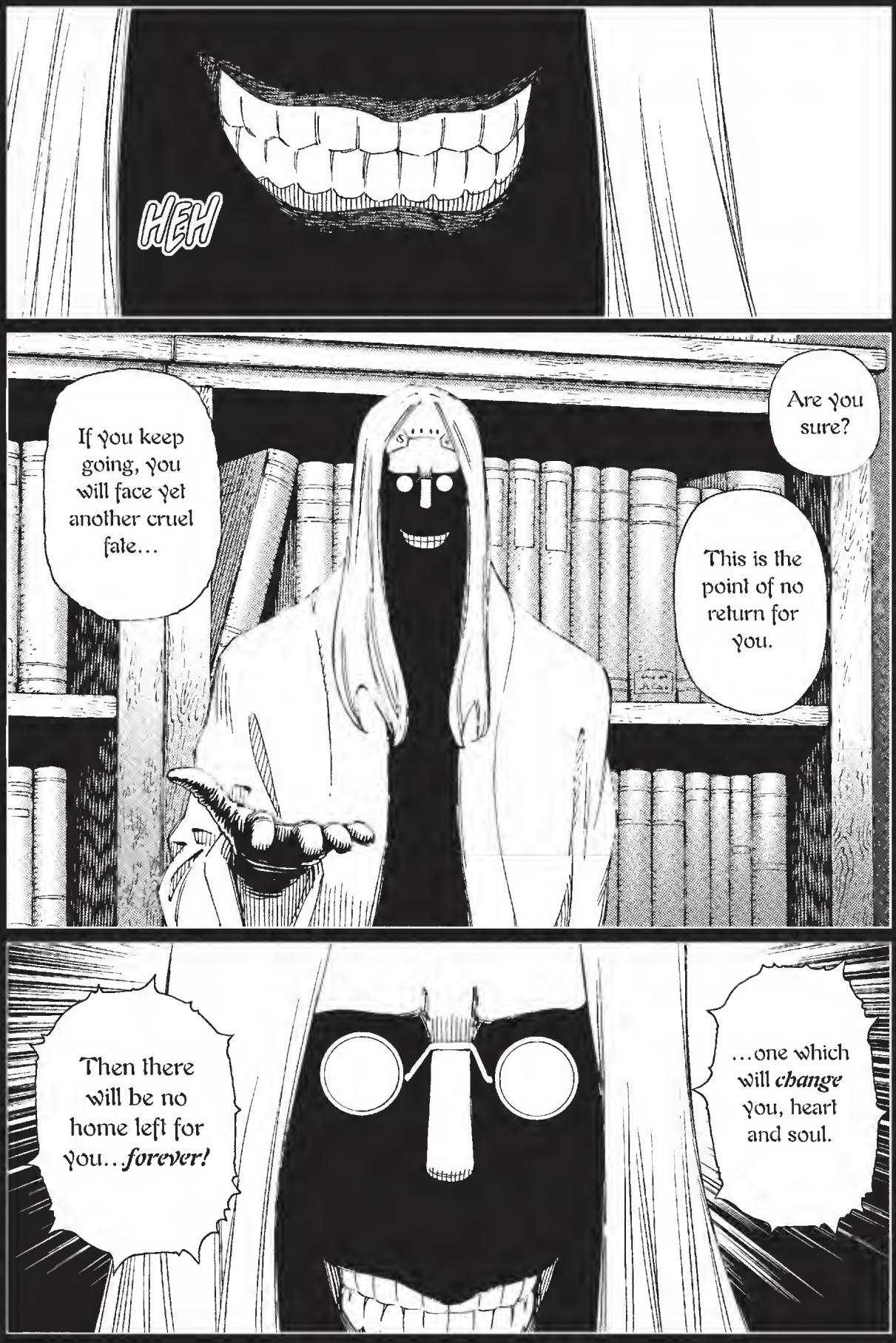
How rare for you...
...to seek me out yourself...
...
Were the revelations enough? Are you able to be a... "normal person"?
So now you know...
...who you **were**–and what you ***did.***

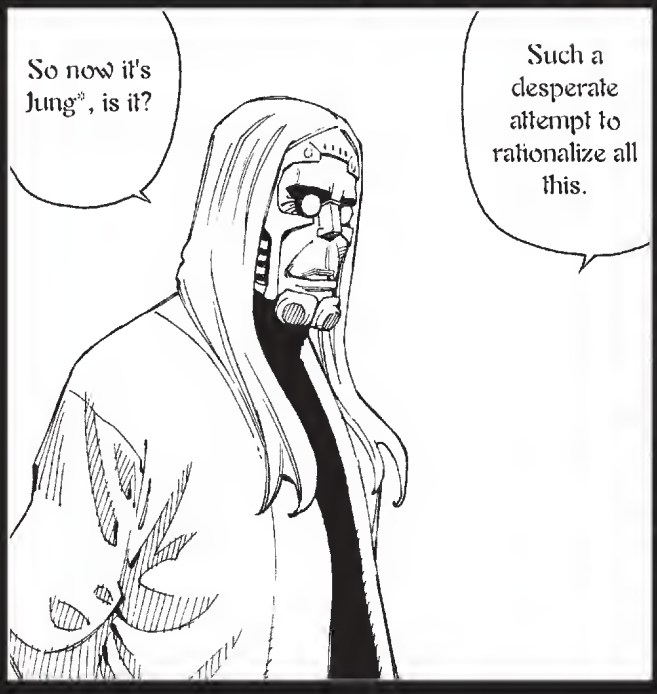
...SHE WAS JUST DOING HER BEST.
I...I'M NOT SURE. YOKO WAS A CHILD. SHE DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER. BUT, IN HER STRUGGLE TO LIVE...
IT WAS A WAR! IT'S OVER!
I WAS TRIED, PAID THE PRICE...
They can massacre a hundred thousand people without turning a hair.
The pure of heart can be even worse than fools.
"It was a war!" Yes...and I'll bet you had no alternative but to follow orders, right? A slave to the whims of war!
Is that how you see it?
What a splendid way to justify the slaughter of those you've never met...

Isn't it time you ceased this mad rush forward?
TMP
BACK WH... WHERE?
A bit of advice, my dear pupil.
Go back... back where you belong.
WMP
...go *back*–to the people who would welcome you with open arms.
BA
Before you've gone too far...

My Memories
YES...THAT WOULD BE NICE.
FORGET EVERYTHING... AND LIVE THAT WAY...
Even if you are a war criminal...
...or a dropout who quit before meeting her goals...
...these people won't judge you.

BUT I...
I'M SO GRACELESS THAT WAY. I'M SORRY, FIGURE...
I CAN ONLY STUMBLE FORWARD...

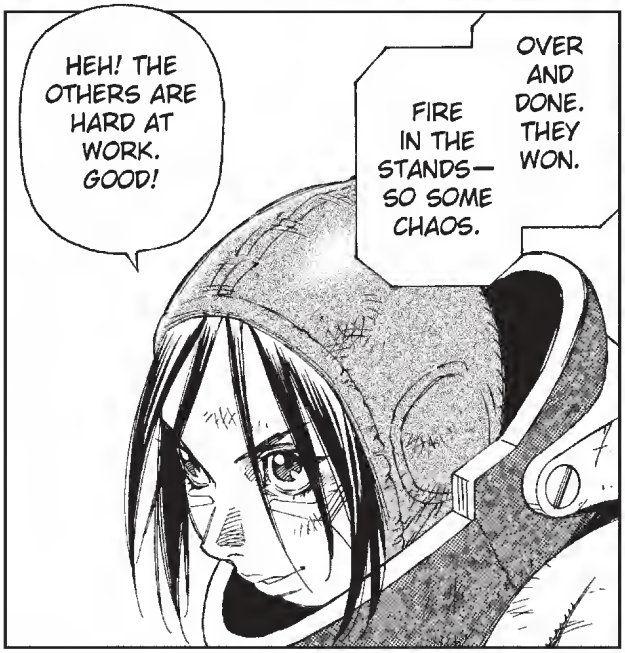

HEH
If you keep going, you will face yet another cruel fate...
Are you sure?
This is the point of no return for you.
Then there will be no home left for you... *forever!*
...one which will *change* you, heart and soul.

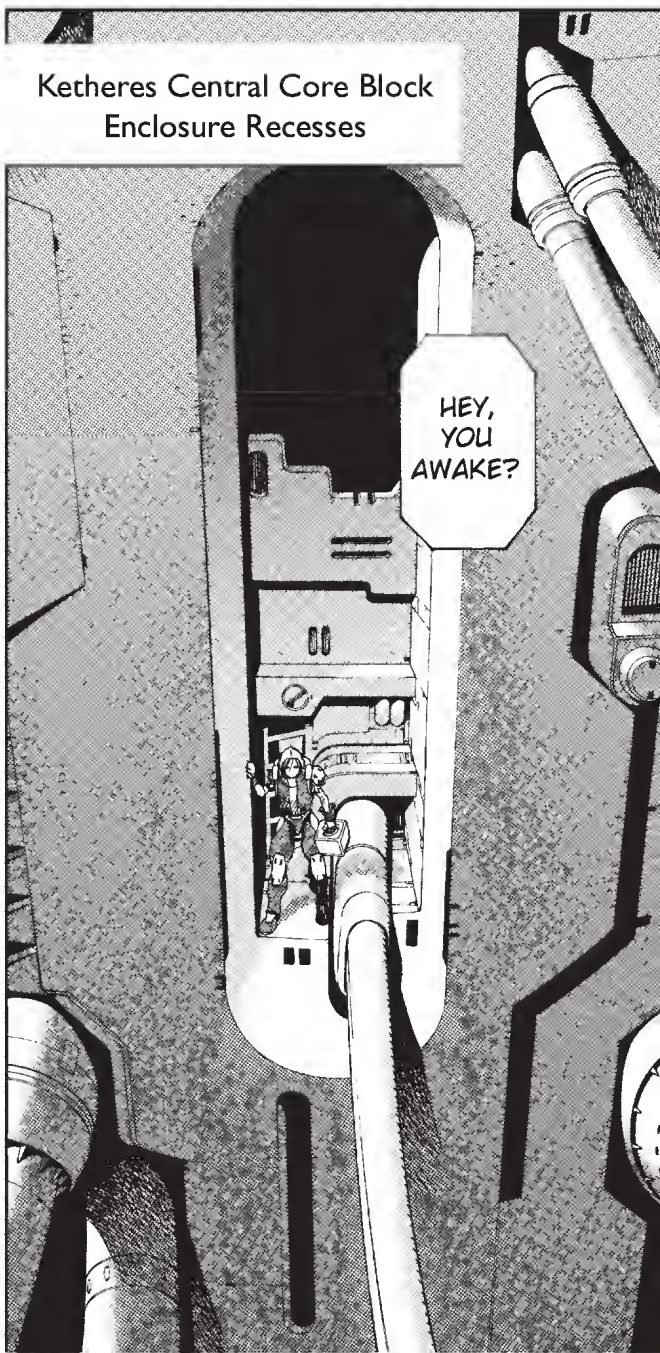


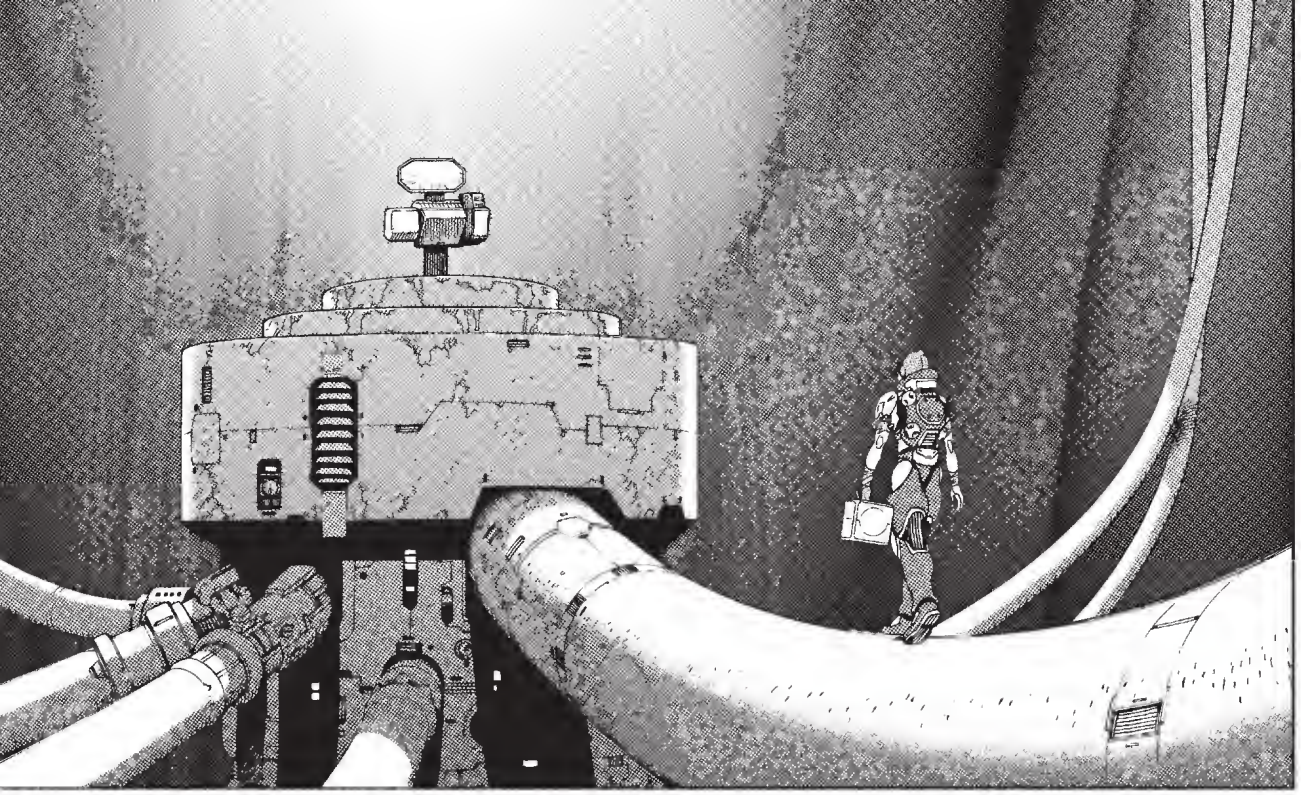
***Carl Gustav Jung:** A Swiss psychiatrist (1875 - 1961) who originally was in agreement with Freudian psychoanalysis, but split off to found his own school of psychology. The "shadow" is a key concept in Jungian psychology.*

Then I'll be off...for *now.*
But we shall meet again...
Very well.
Brute force is no match for the depths of the psyche!
...for no matter how strong you may become, I will always be near.

HOW ARE YOUR EYES?
EVERY-THING'S FINE. SO...
HOW'S THE Z.O.T.T. MATCH GOING?

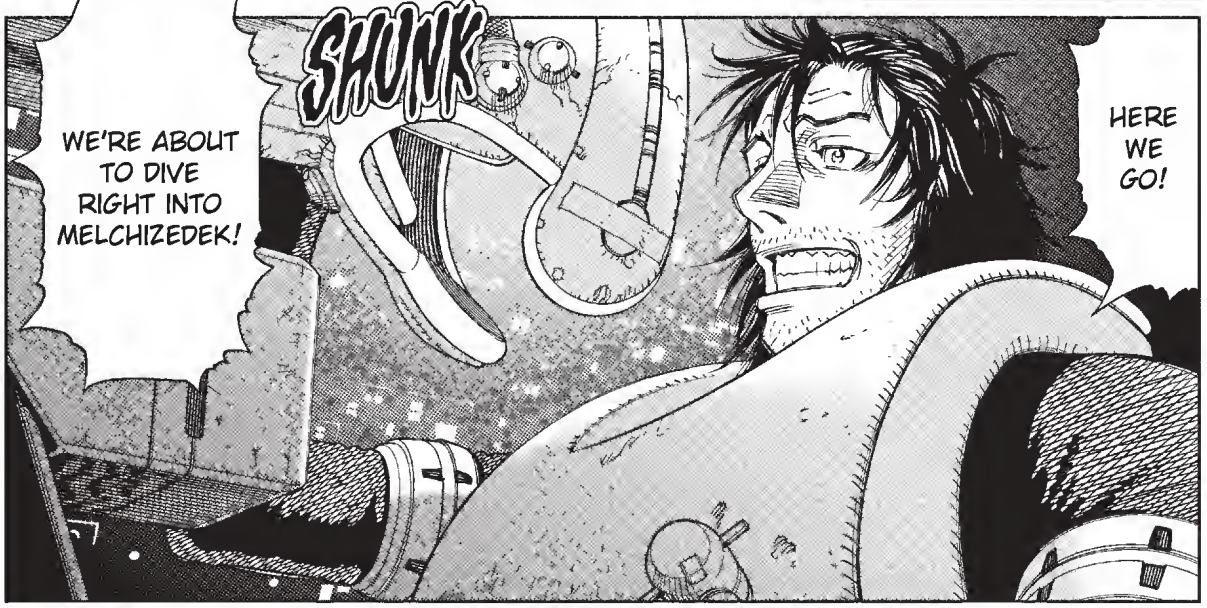

OVER AND DONE. THEY WON.
FIRE IN THE STANDS— SO SOME CHAOS.
HEH! THE OTHERS ARE HARD AT WORK. GOOD!

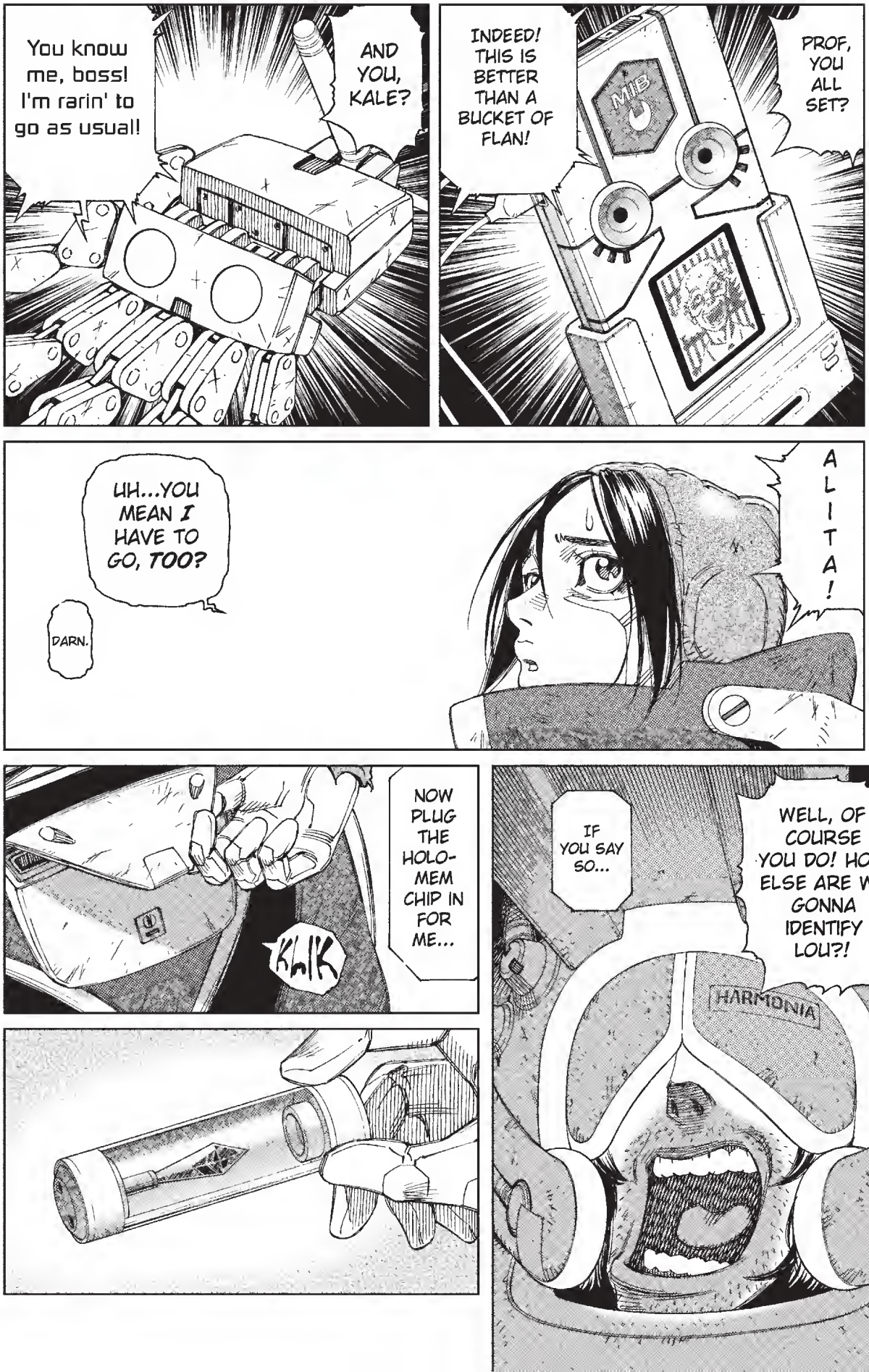

Ketheres Central Core Block Enclosure Recesses
HEY, YOU AWAKE?



WELL, YEAH. NO ONE'S TOUCHED THE PLACE IN OVER A HUNDRED YEARS...
SKWEE-SKWEE
OH GEEZ, IT'S COVERED IN FROST...

LOOKS LIKE I CAN USE THIS TERMI-NAL.


WE'RE ABOUT TO DIVE RIGHT INTO MELCHIZEDEK!
SHUNK
HERE WE GO!

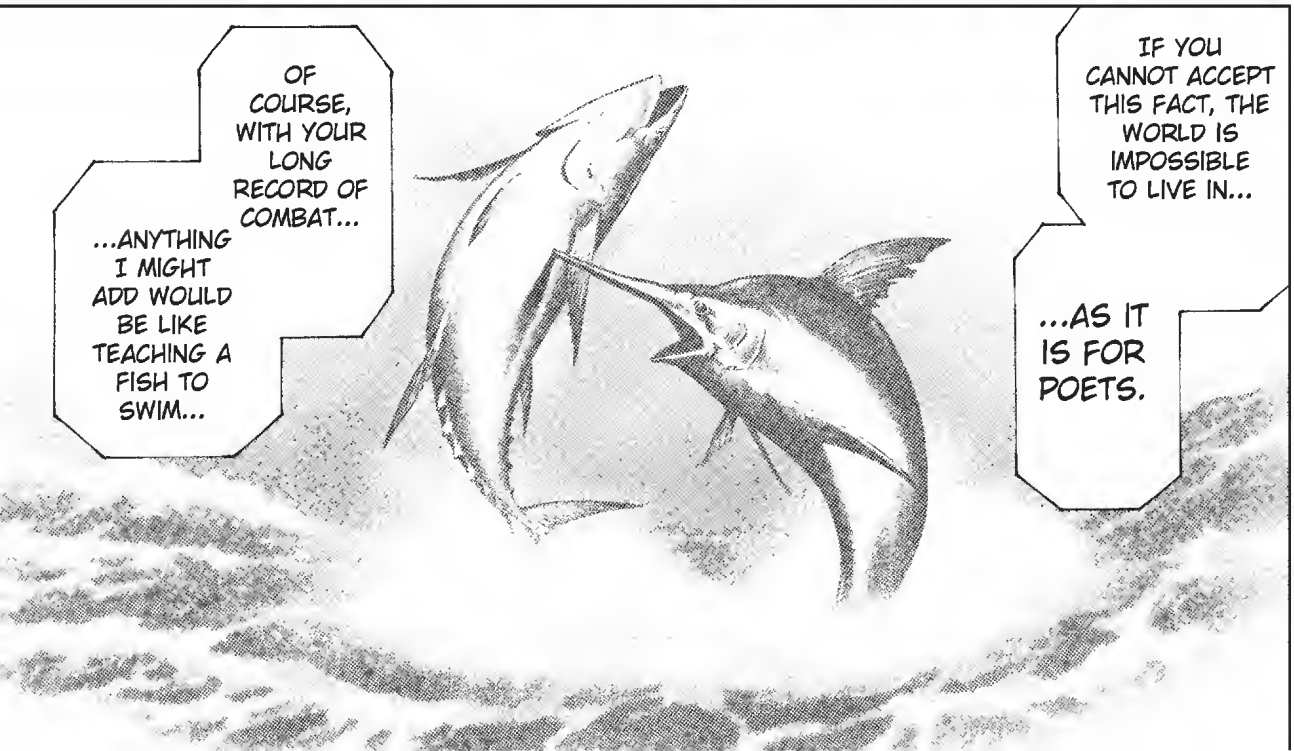

You know me, boss! I'm rarin' to go as usual!
AND YOU, KALE?
INDEED! THIS IS BETTER THAN A BUCKET OF FLAN!
MIB
PROF, YOU ALL SET?
UH...YOU MEAN I HAVE TO GO, TOO?
DARN.
ALITA!
KLIK
NOW PLUG THE HOLO-MEM CHIP IN FOR ME...
IF YOU SAY SO...
WELL, OF COURSE YOU DO! HOW ELSE ARE WE GONNA IDENTIFY LOU?!
HARMONIA

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO DO...IT WON'T DESTROY MELCHIZEDEK, WILL IT?
PING... PROMISE ME ONE THING, OKAY?
...
HUH? *NOW?*
I CAN'T REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKE... NOT LIKE BEFORE!
I WON'T LET MY NAIVETÉ RESULT IN THE DEATH OF MANY!
I'VE GOT TO KNOW !!
DON'T BE AN IDIOT! C'MON! JUST DO IT!
...BUT EITHER WAY, IT'S TOO LATE FOR TALK ABOUT RIGHT AND WRONG!
ALL WE'RE DOING IS SOME PETTY LARCENY, OKAY?
THIS IS BARELY EVEN A RESCUE MISSION... MORE LIKE A *KIDNAPPING* IF YOU ASK ME...

WE CAN'T DO THIS IF YOU'RE NOT READY TO BE THE BAD GUY!
FINE, ALITA! THEN GIVE IT UP!
ALL I WANT IS TO SAVE LOU!
CAN'T YOU SEE?! I DON'T WANT TO INVOLVE ANYONE ELSE!
CALM DOWN, YOU TWO.
NOW, NOW...
HMPH! IF YOU WANNA BE A GOODY TWO-SHOES, GO HOLE UP IN A ROOM FOREVER!
BOY, DOES HE KNOW 'BOUT THAT!
WELL, TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT, WE WON'T KNOW THE RESULTS UNTIL WE TRY!
OF COURSE, AS A SCHOLAR OF KARMATRONIC DYNAMICS, I CAN SAY THAT THE IMPACT OF THIS PLAN ON OUR FUTURE WORLD ARE...
SO LET'S GIVE IT A GO!
ALITA, WE'VE NO REASON TO THINK THIS WILL LEAD TO MASSIVE FATALITIES LIKE THE CAMLANN DEBACLE...
FOR NOW.

THIS IS IT, THEN...THE POINT OF NO RETURN...

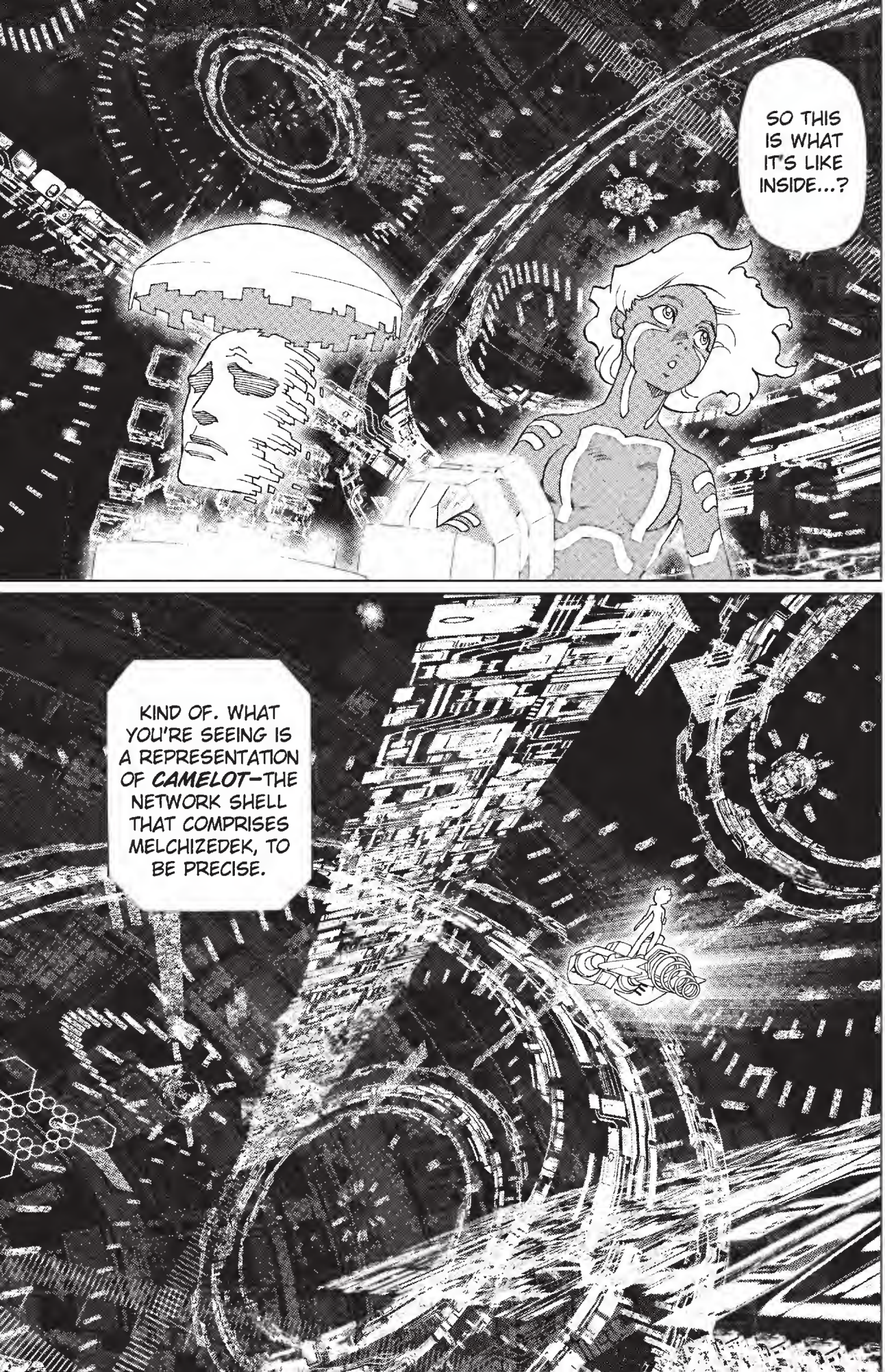
...IS RIPE WITH *EVIL*.
ALITA...IT IS WITHIN THE PROVIDENCE OF NATURE ITSELF. THE VERY ACT OF *LIVING* AND *DOING*...
EVIL

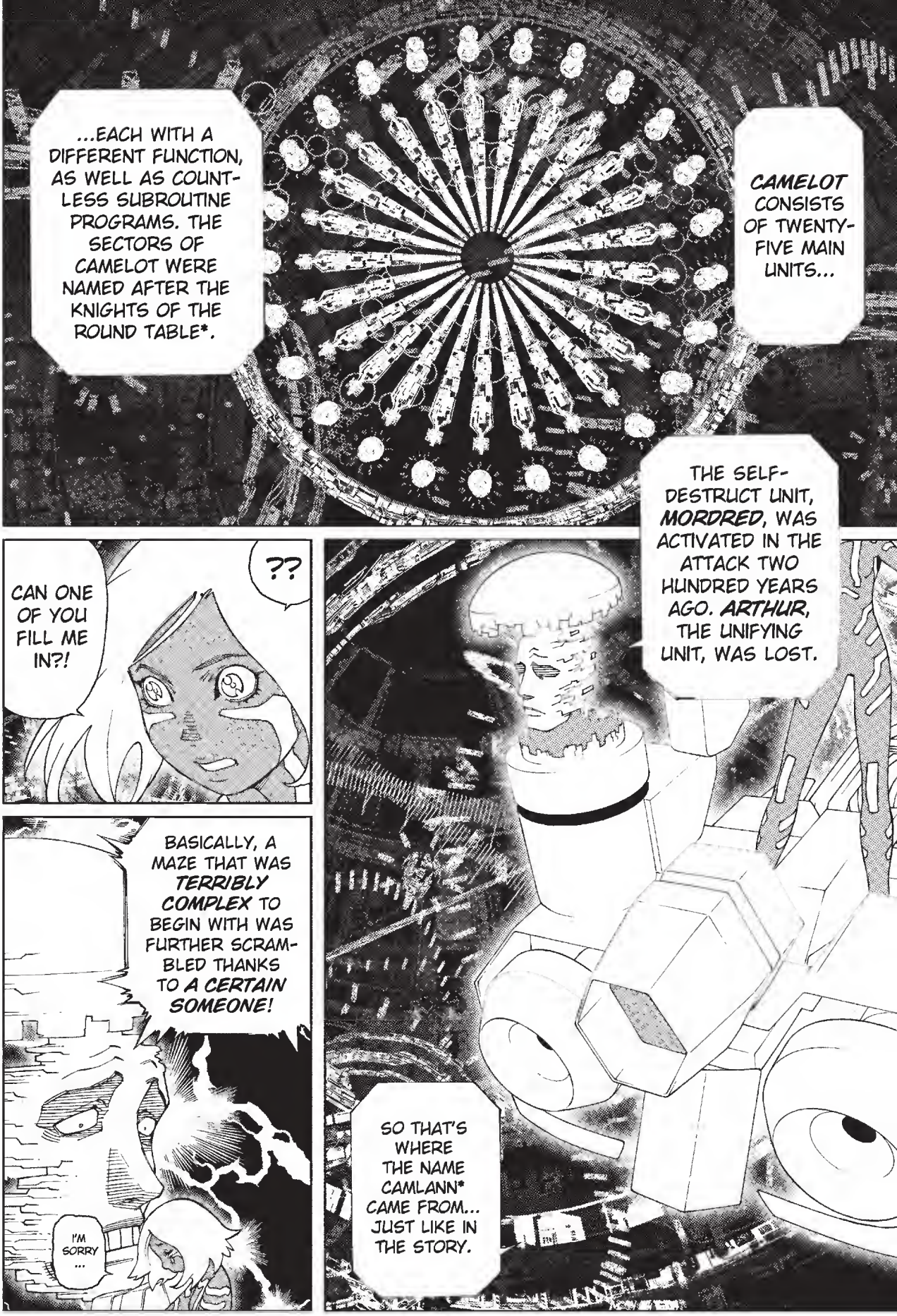

OF COURSE, WITH YOUR LONG RECORD OF COMBAT...
...ANYTHING I MIGHT ADD WOULD BE LIKE TEACHING A FISH TO SWIM...
IF YOU CANNOT ACCEPT THIS FACT, THE WORLD IS IMPOSSIBLE TO LIVE IN...
...AS IT IS FOR POETS.

ALL RIGHT. IT WAS WISHFUL THINKING.
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN.
HOO, BOY...
BESIDES, TRADING IN HUMAN BRAINS FOR NOVA'S BIO-CHIPS IS PRACTICALLY CAUSE FOR THE WORLD'S DESTRUCTION ANYWAY.
SHOK
THIS ISN'T THE SAME AS TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO. IT'S MY WILL THIS TIME...
THAT'S REASON ENOUGH.

LET'S
JACK
IN!

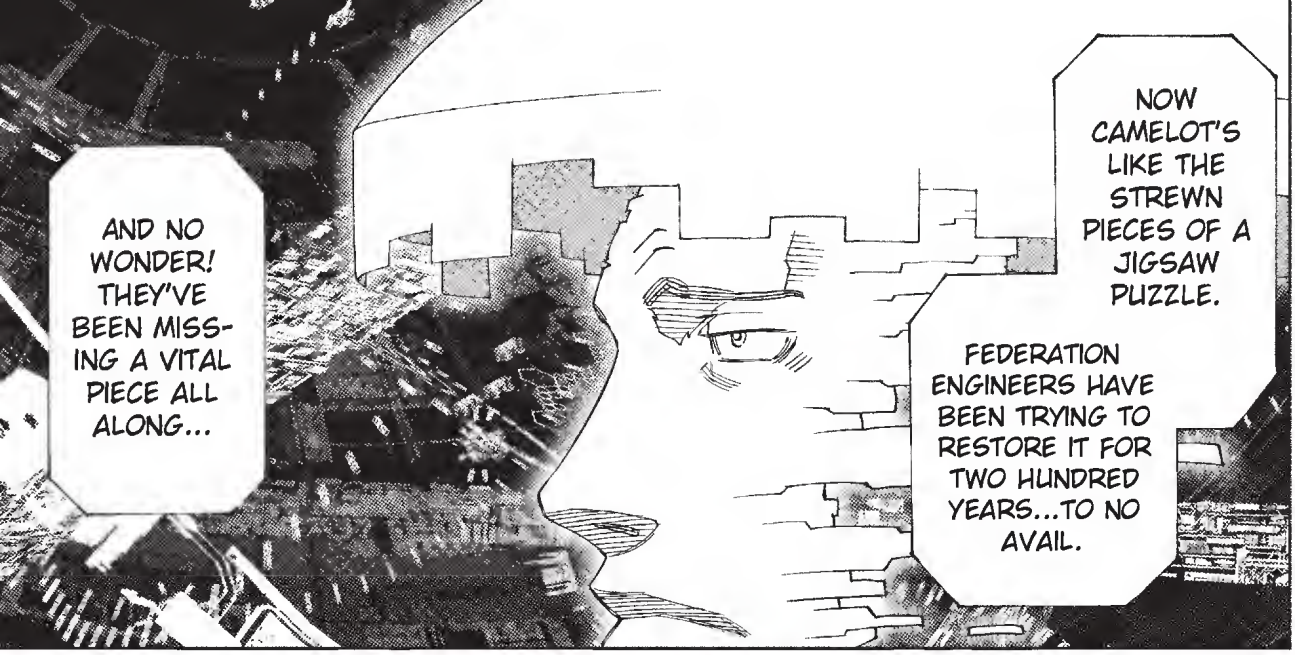
DON'T PANIC, ALITA.
ガシ!
PING! WHERE ARE YOU?!
WE'RE RIGHT HERE! THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF!
I'M HERE, TOO! KYA, HA, HA!

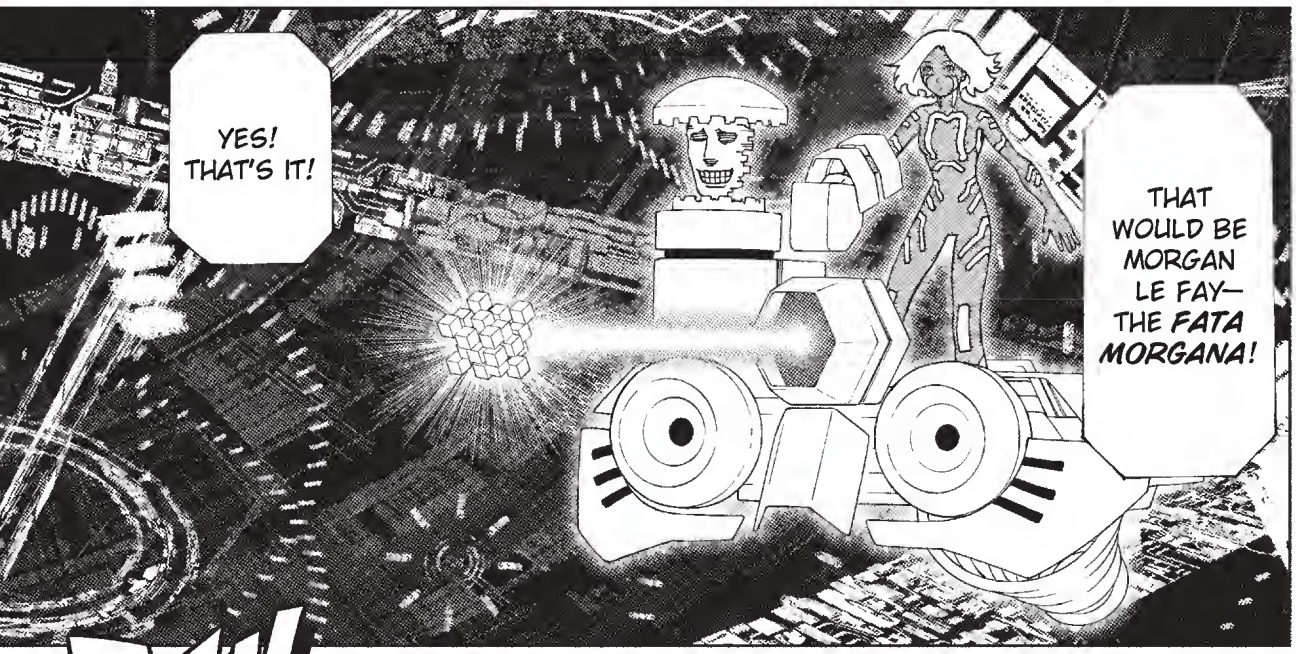

SO THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE INSIDE...?
KIND OF. WHAT YOU'RE SEEING IS A REPRESENTATION OF *CAMELOT*—THE NETWORK SHELL THAT COMPRISES MELCHIZEDEK, TO BE PRECISE.



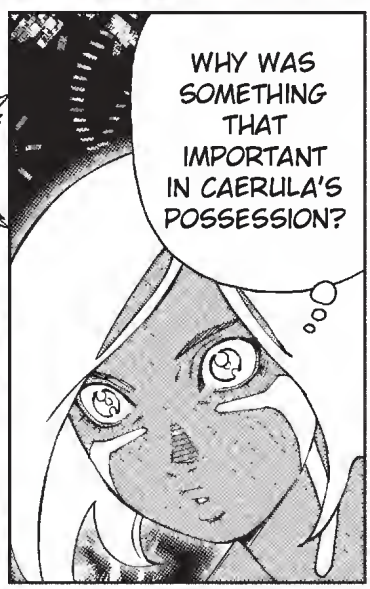
Knights of the Round Table: *The knights who were qualified to sit at the round table in England's Legend of King Authur. Though there are various theories as to the number of knights seated at the round table, we've decided to use the number twenty-five, based on the round table left at Winchester Castle.*

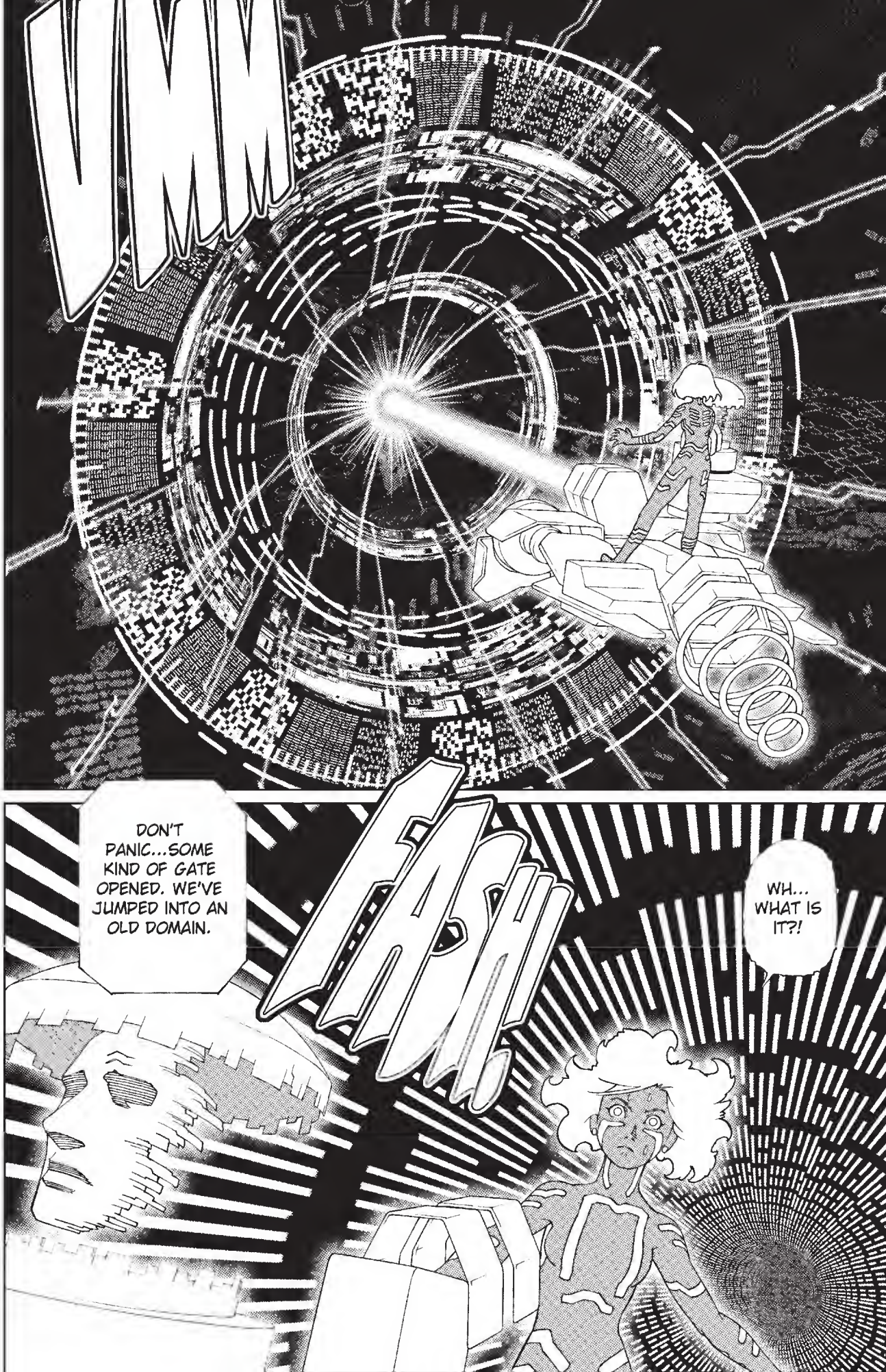
Camlann: *The site where King Arthur and Mordred's final battle took place.*

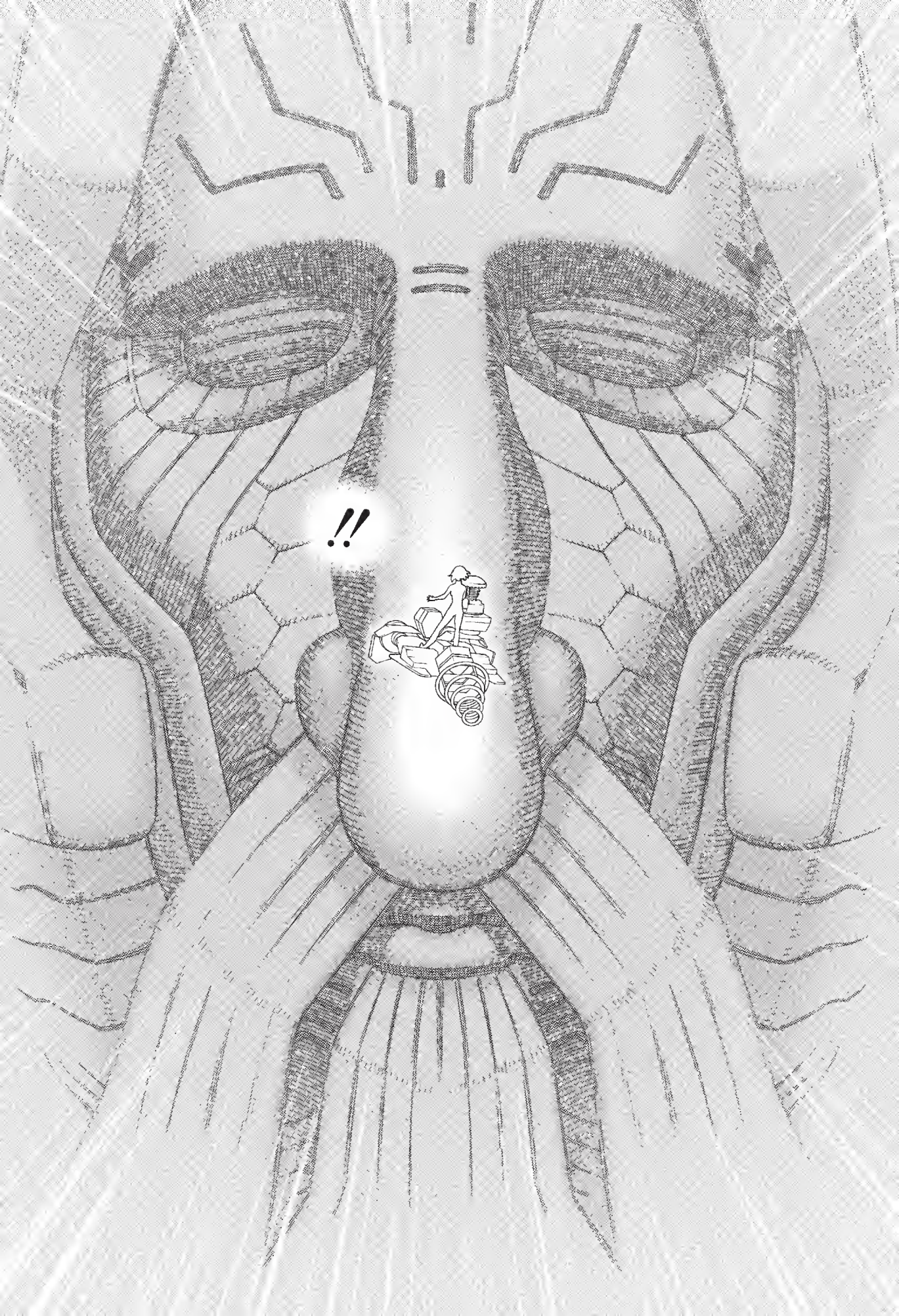

NOW CAMELOT'S LIKE THE STREWN PIECES OF A JIGSAW PUZZLE.
FEDERATION ENGINEERS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO RESTORE IT FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS...TO NO AVAIL.
AND NO WONDER! THEY'VE BEEN MISSING A VITAL PIECE ALL ALONG...

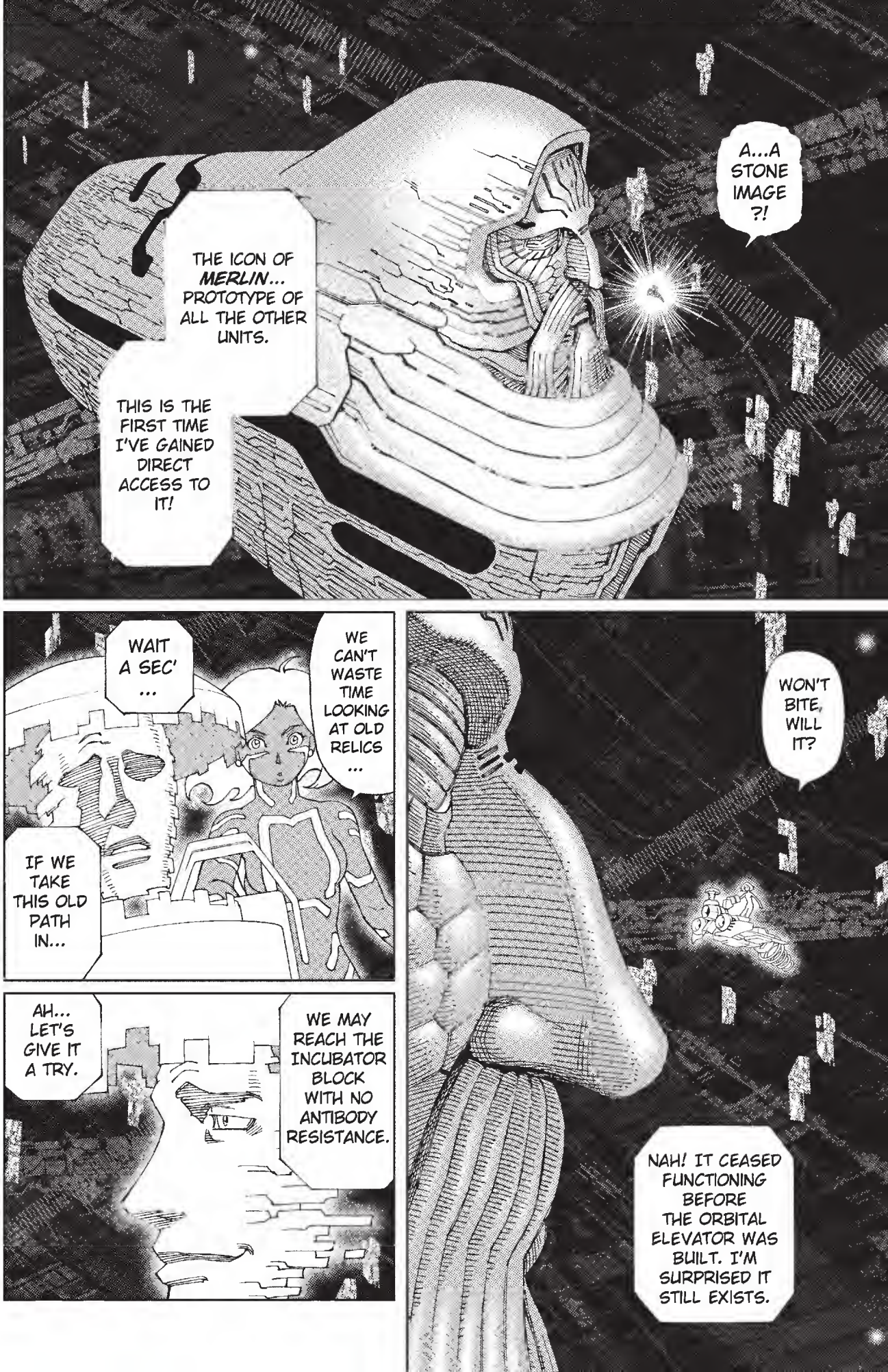

YES! THAT'S IT!
THAT WOULD BE MORGAN LE FAY—THE *FATA MORGANA*!

Wom
BEGIN EXTRACTION!

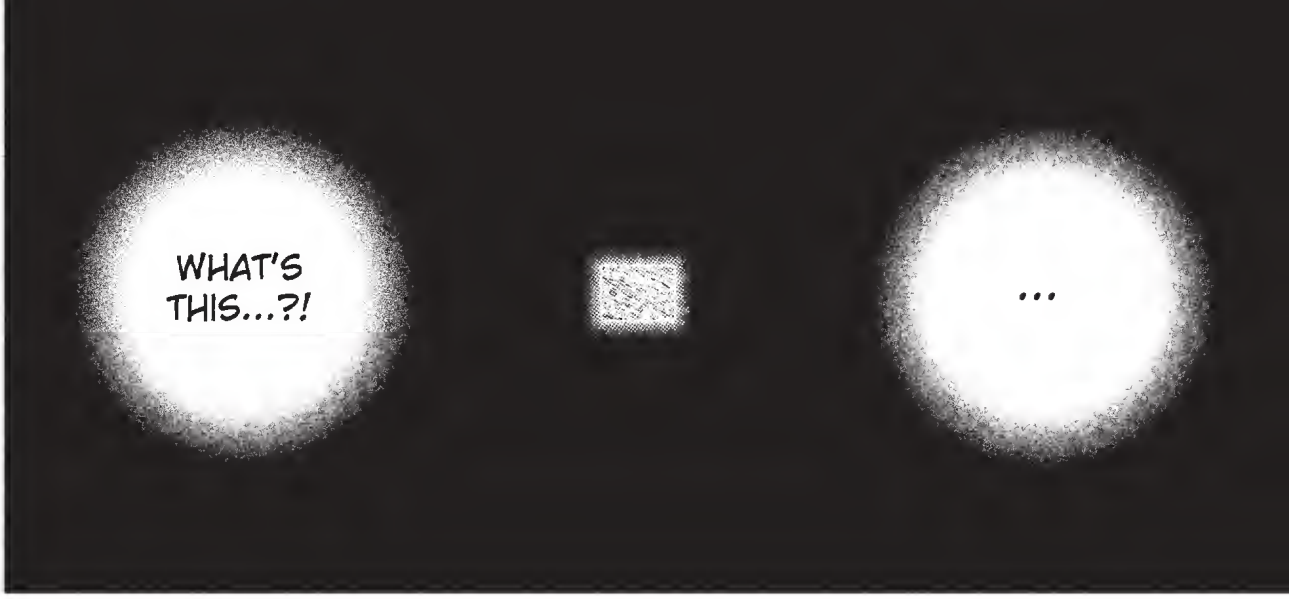

WHY WAS SOMETHING THAT IMPORTANT IN CAERULA'S POSSESSION?

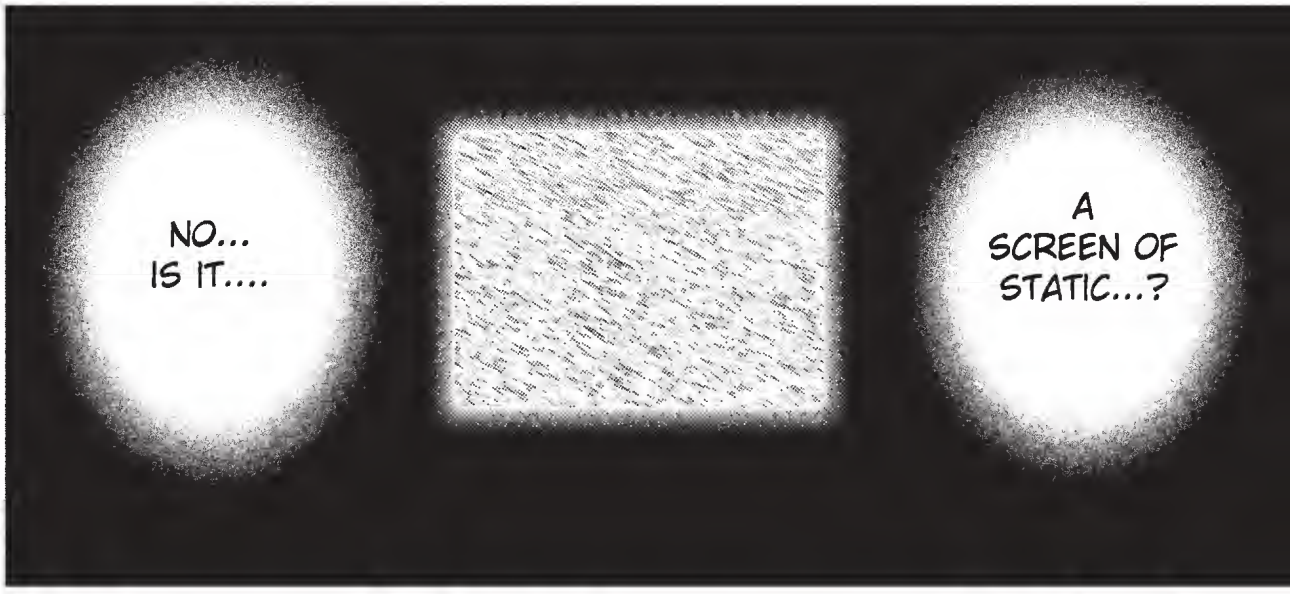

VMM
DON'T PANIC...SOME KIND OF GATE OPENED. WE'VE JUMPED INTO AN OLD DOMAIN.
AH
WH... WHAT IS IT?!

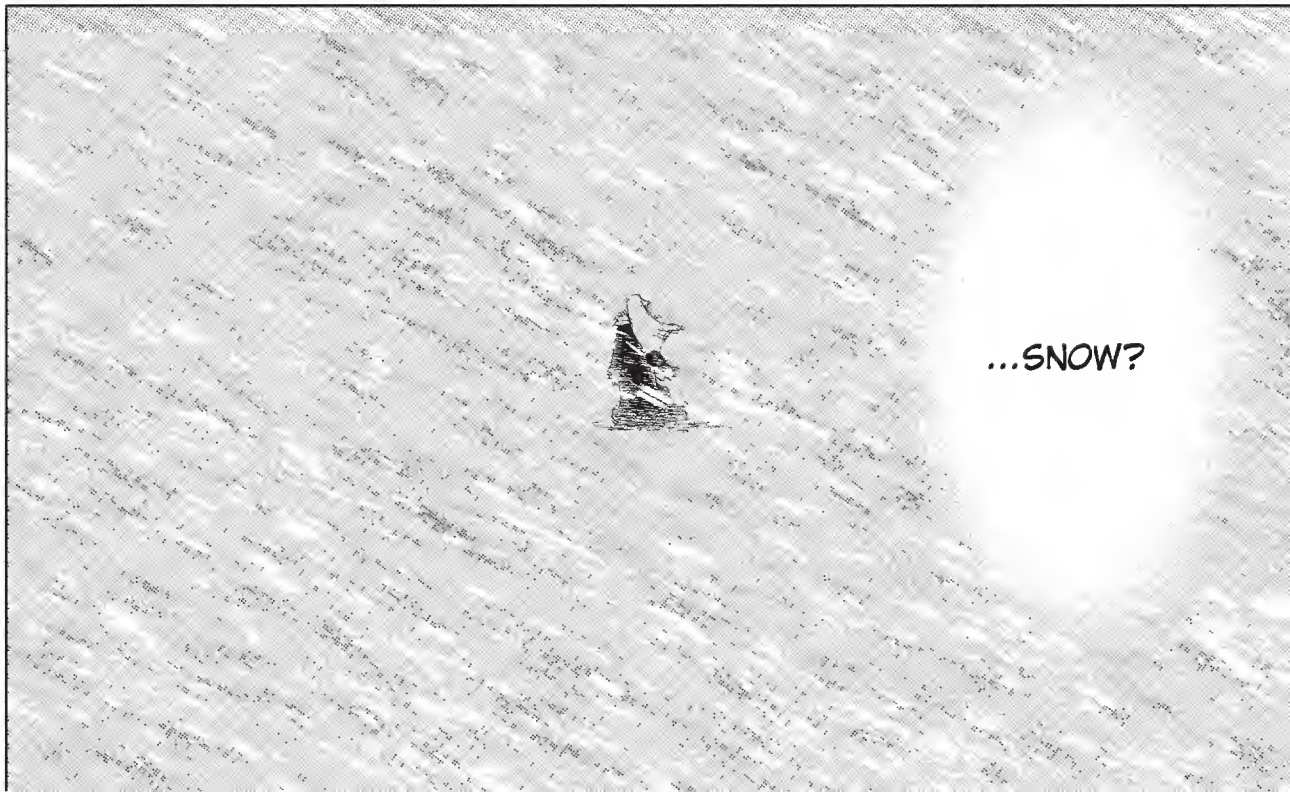



A...A STONE IMAGE ?!
THE ICON OF *MERLIN*... PROTOTYPE OF ALL THE OTHER UNITS.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE GAINED DIRECT ACCESS TO IT!
WAIT A SEC' ...
WE CAN'T WASTE TIME LOOKING AT OLD RELICS ...
IF WE TAKE THIS OLD PATH IN...
AH... LET'S GIVE IT A TRY.
WE MAY REACH THE INCUBATOR BLOCK WITH NO ANTIBODY RESISTANCE.
WON'T BITE, WILL IT?
NAH! IT CEASED FUNCTIONING BEFORE THE ORBITAL ELEVATOR WAS BUILT. I'M SURPRISED IT STILL EXISTS.

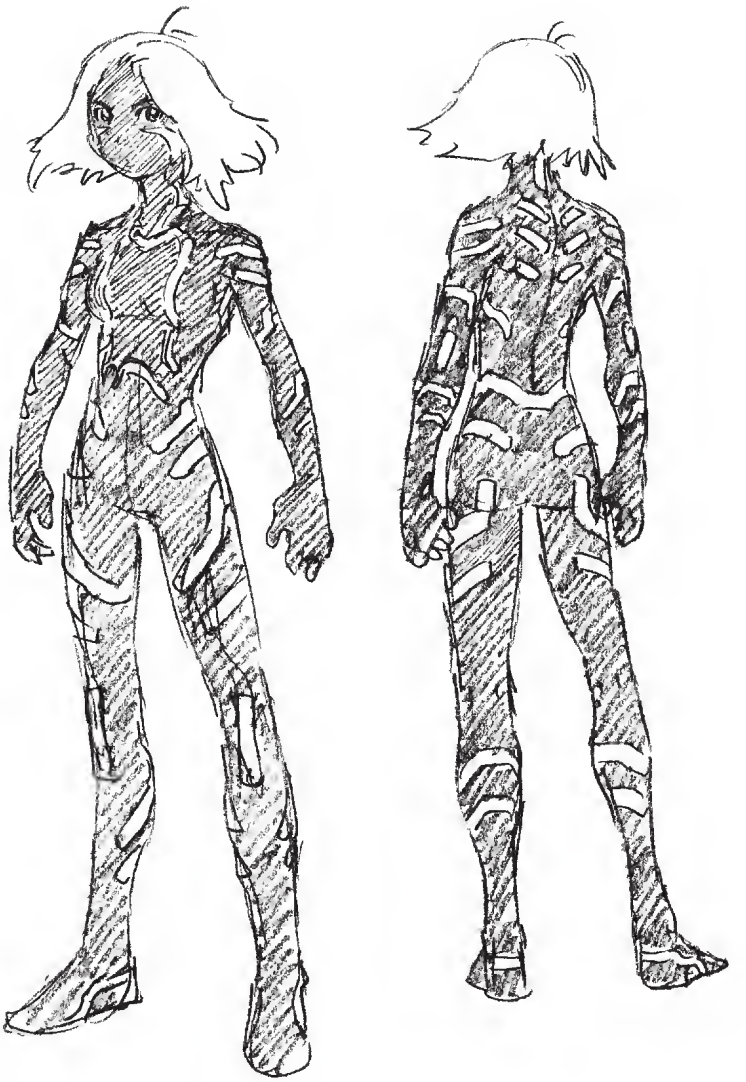
SHOOM
ZOOP
RMB
RMB


WHAT'S THIS...?!
...

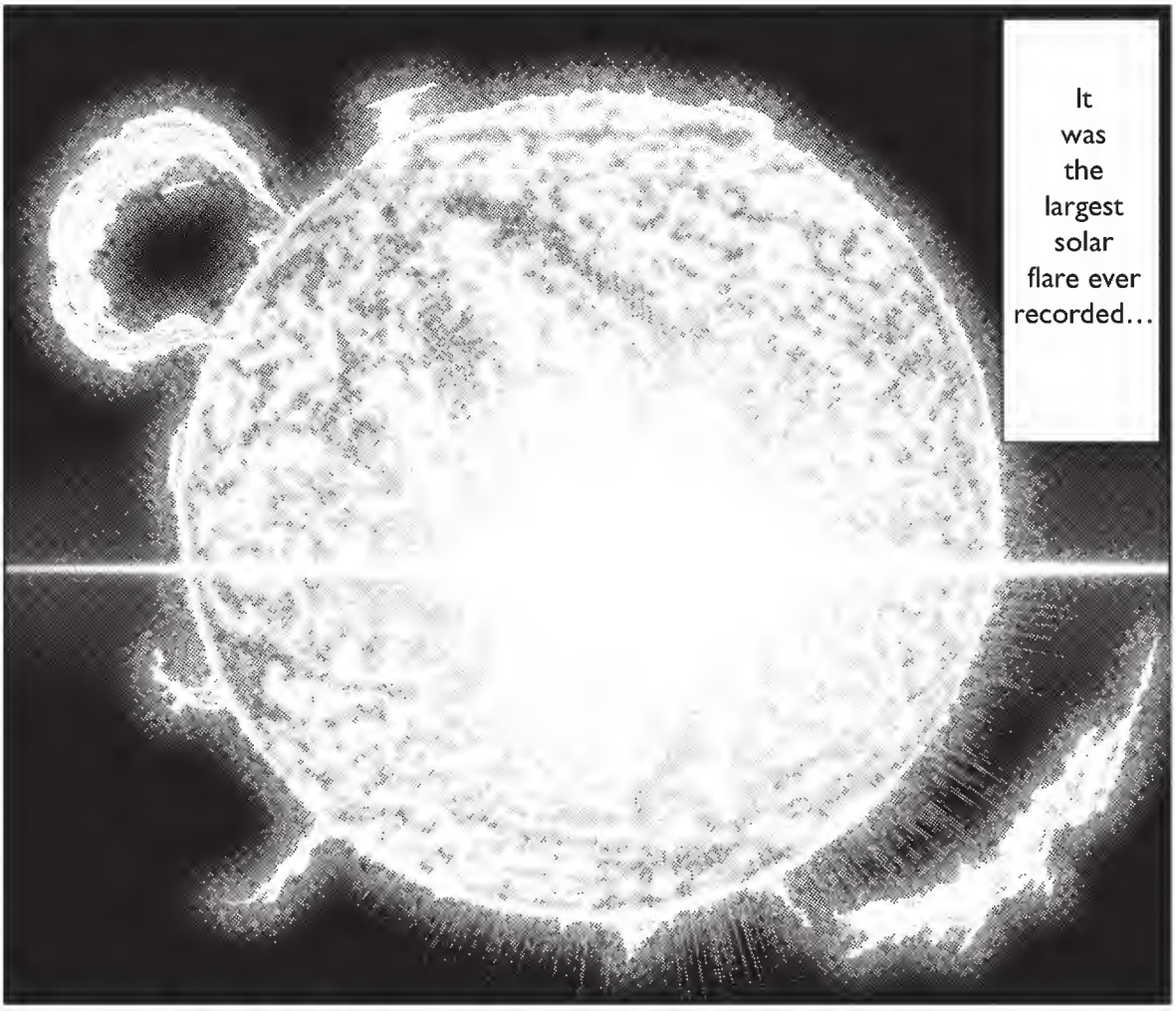

NO... IS IT....
A SCREEN OF STATIC...?

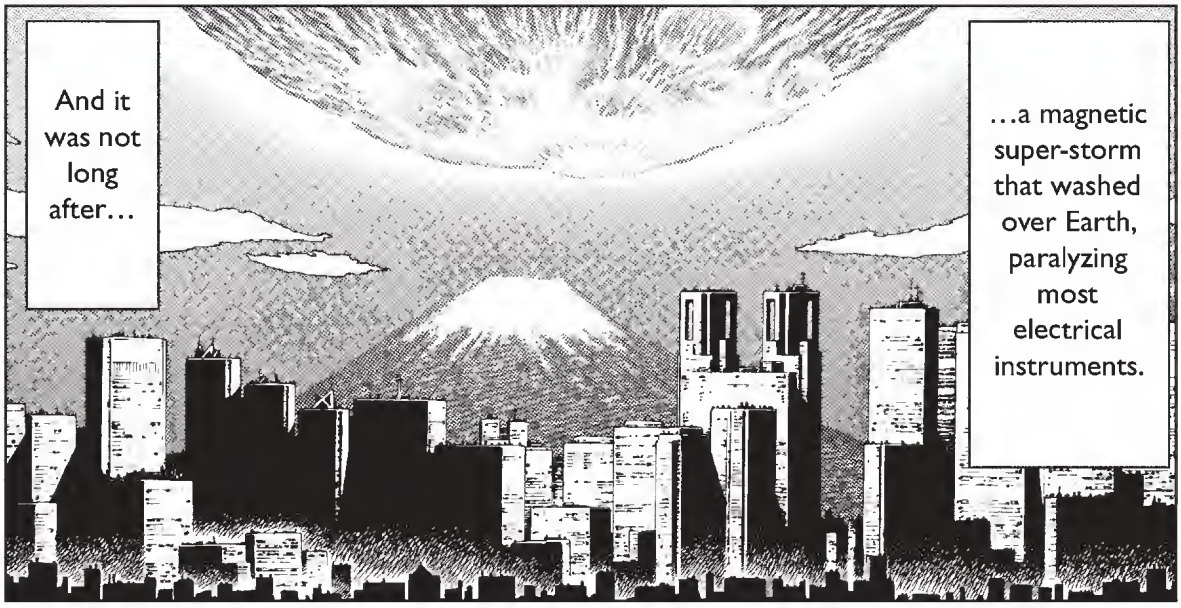

...SNOW?

Wooo ooo

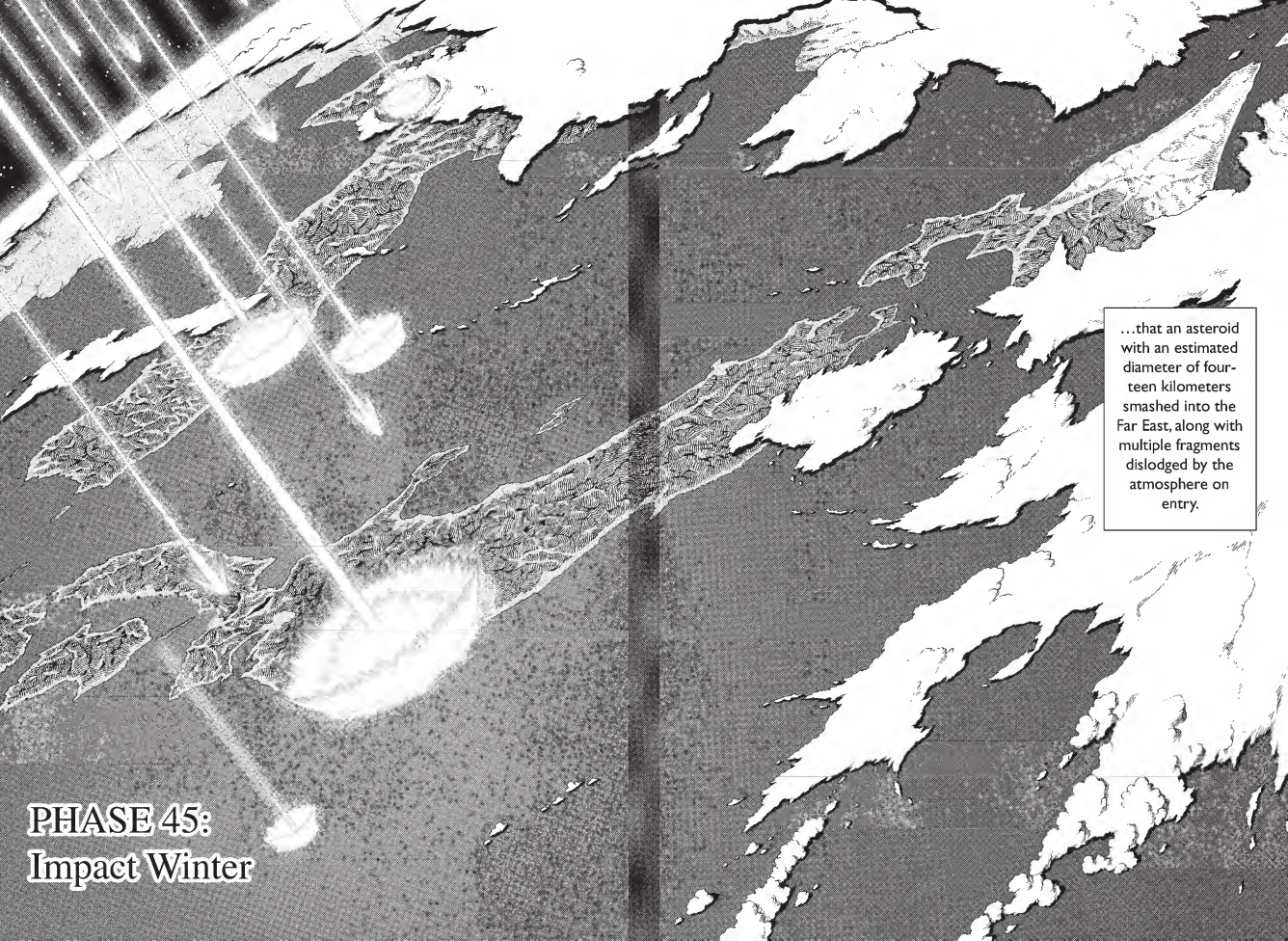


ERA SPUTNIK 55

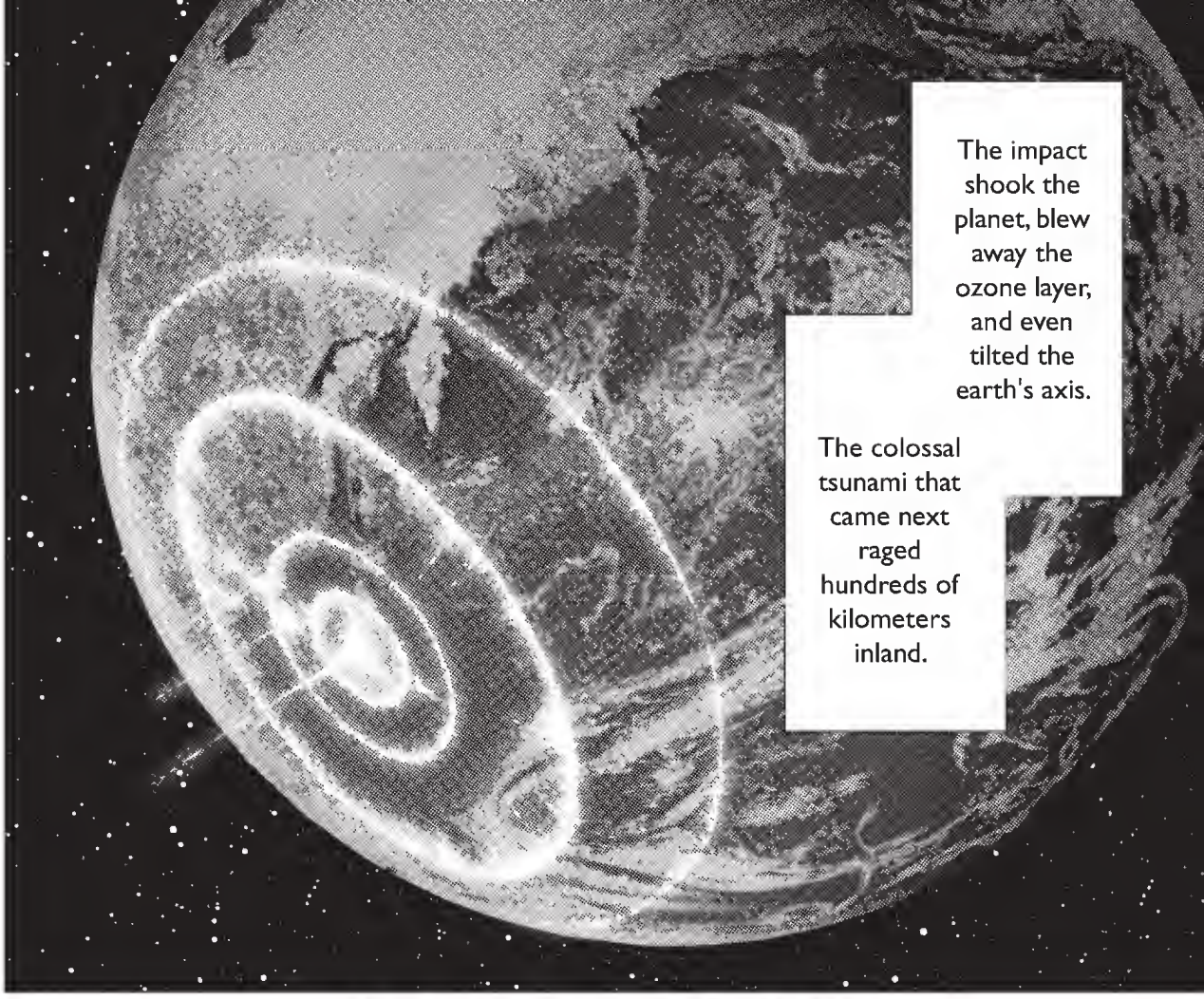


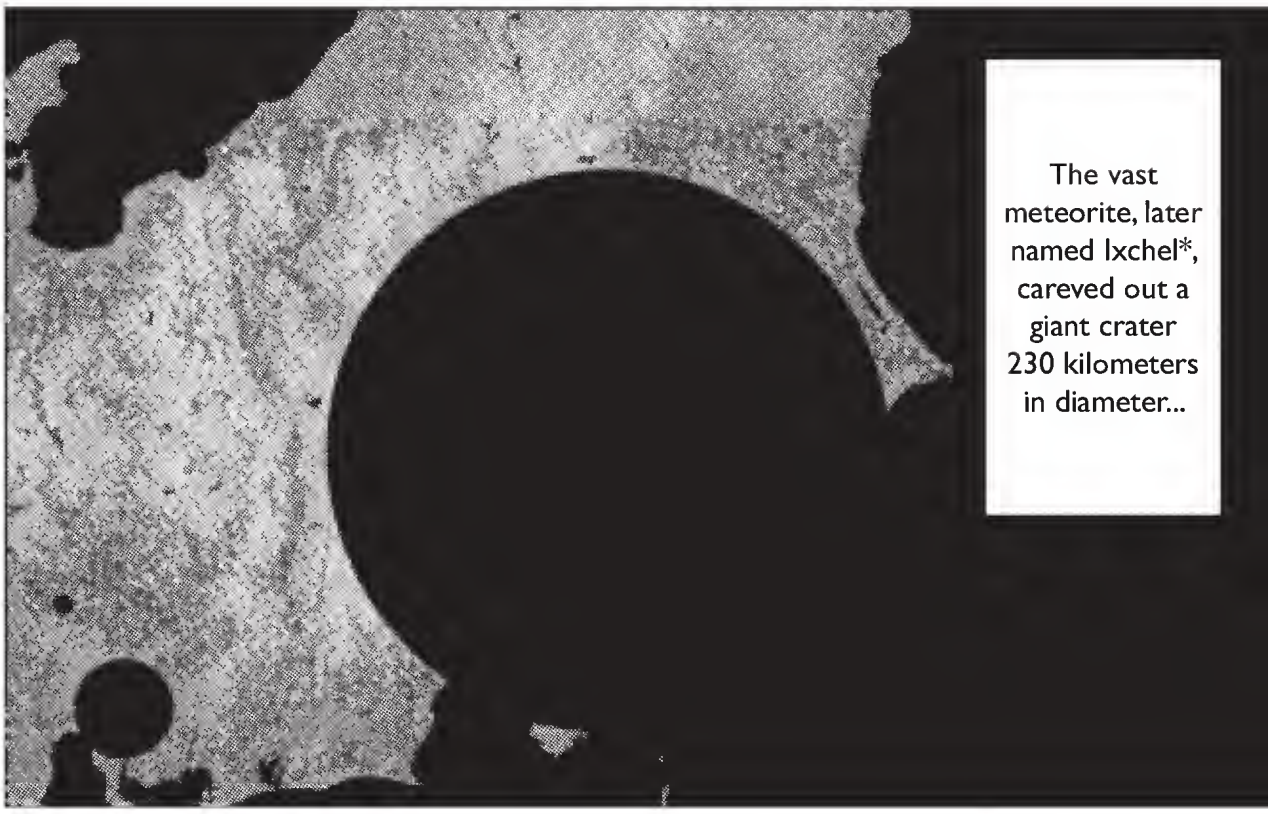


PHASE 45: Impact Winter

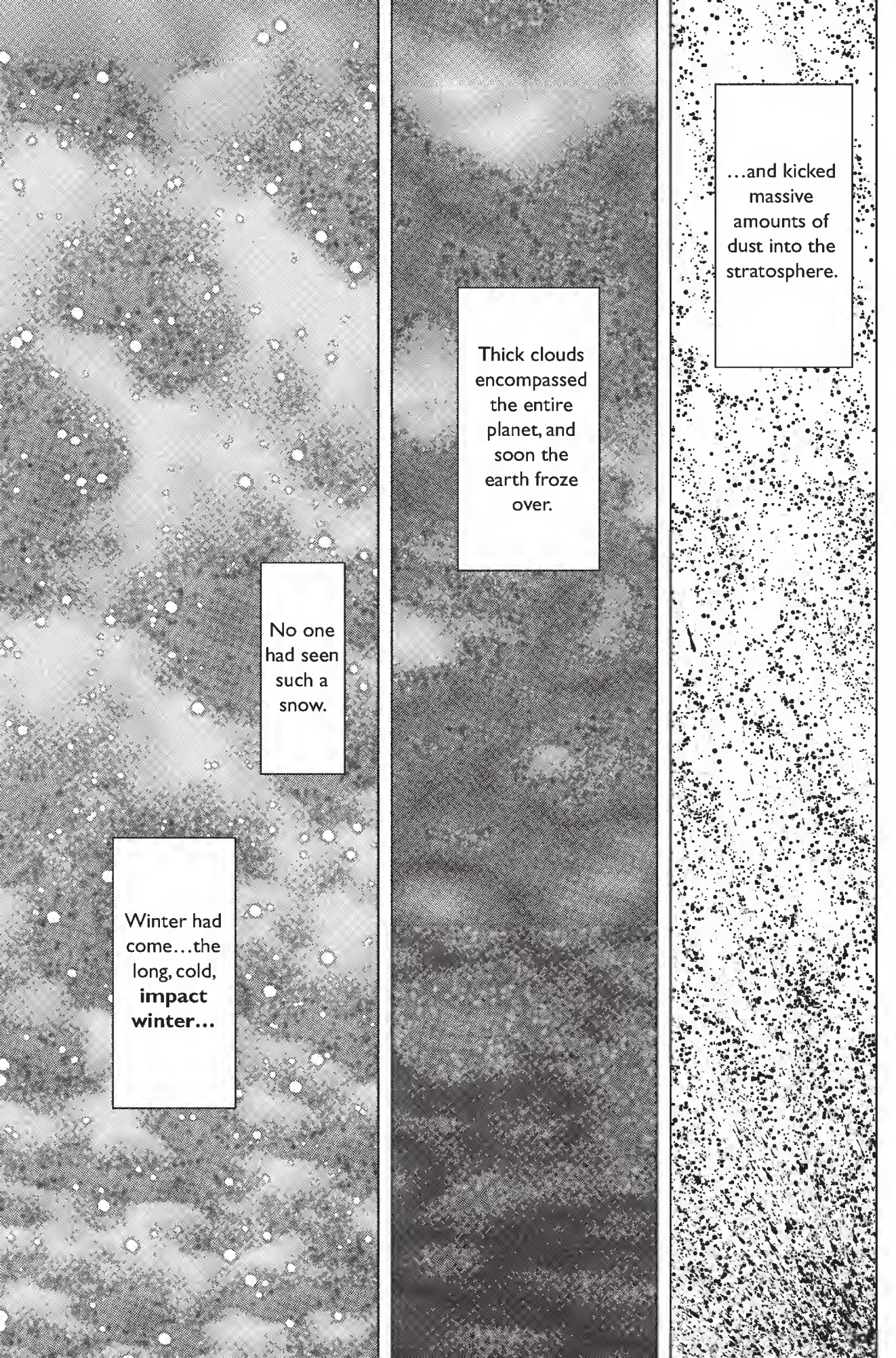


PHASE 45:
Impact Winter





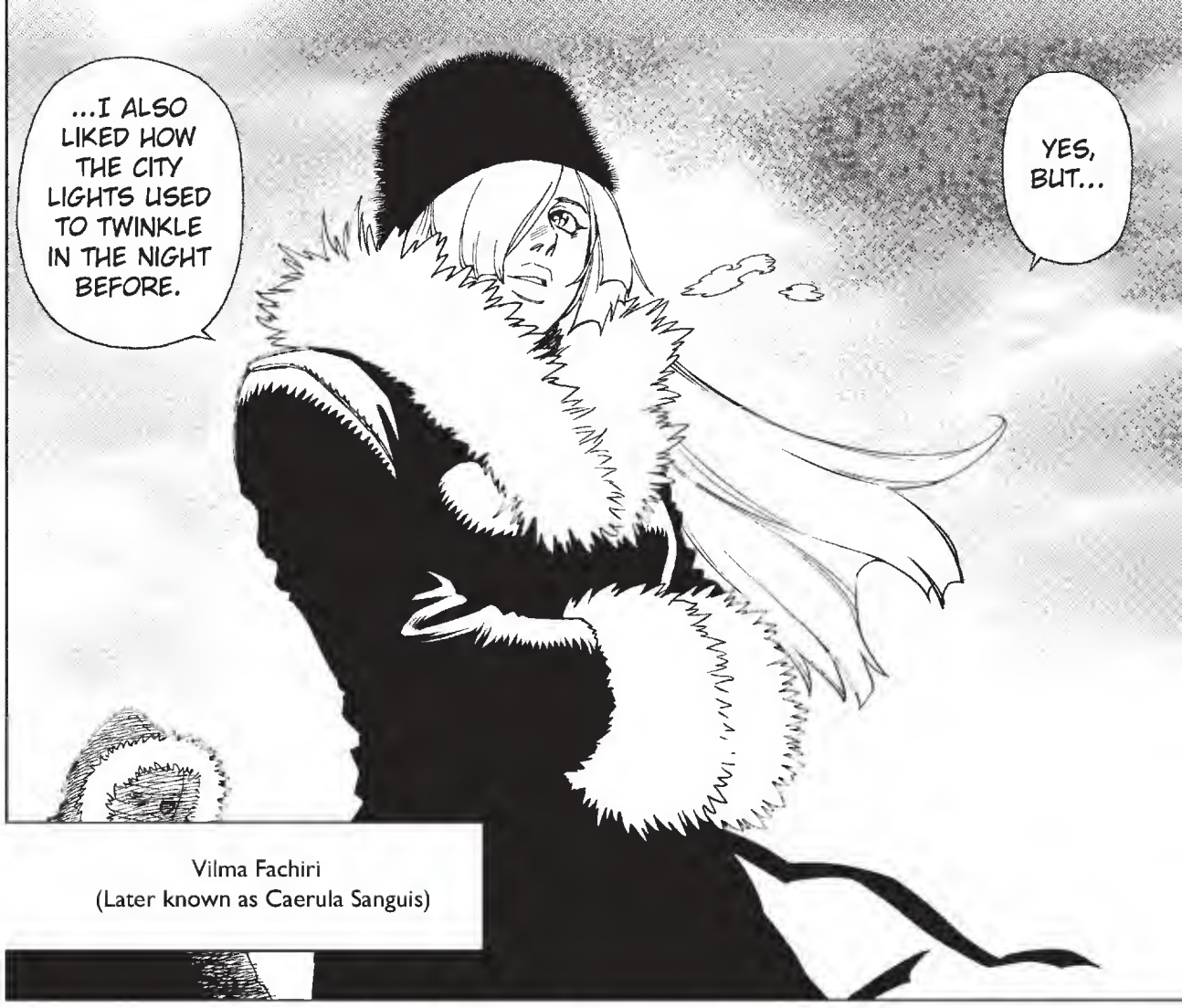
***Ixchel**: A Mayan mythological goddess and the wife of the supreme diety, Itzamna. She is the goddess of storms and floods. She is at times depicted as an old woman with sharp clows and called the "Fearsome Crone."*

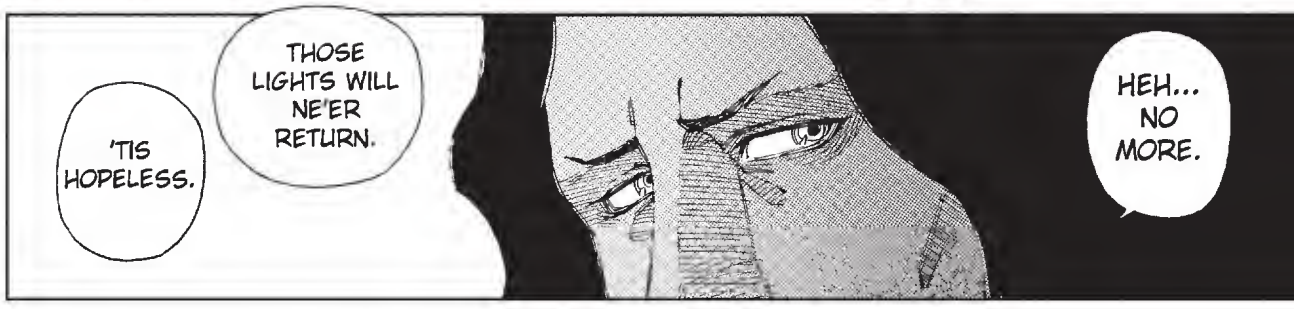

...and kicked massive amounts of dust into the stratosphere.
Thick clouds encompassed the entire planet, and soon the earth froze over.
No one had seen such a snow.
Winter had come...the long, cold, **impact winter...**

Ten years later…
SHAOOO

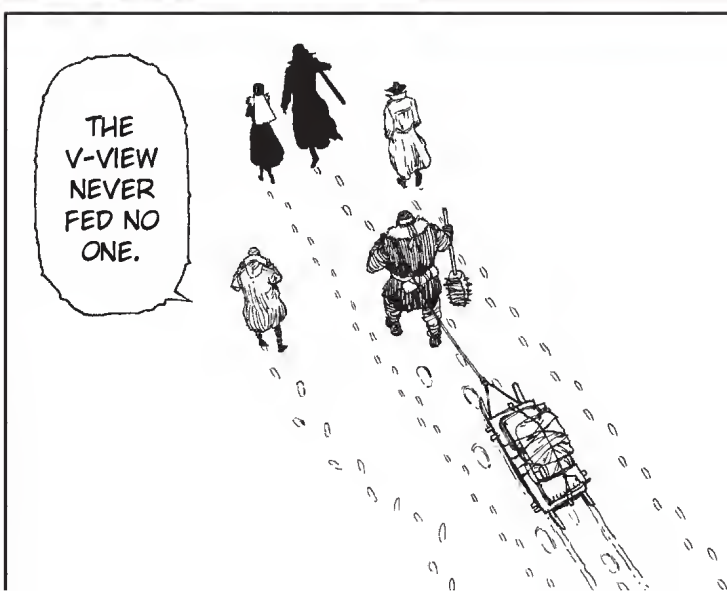
chk
Woo o
I HAVE COME!

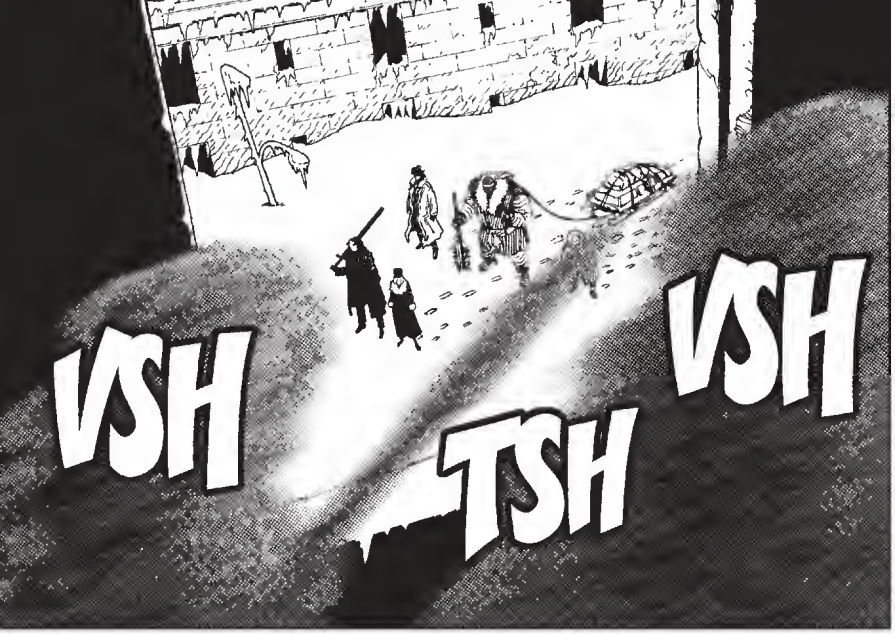
LIKE A WHITE SKULL WASHED OF ITS PUTRID FLESH...
...THE VIEW OF THE FALLEN CITY IS BEAUTIFUL.
DOST THOU AGREE...
...VILMA, MY LOVE?

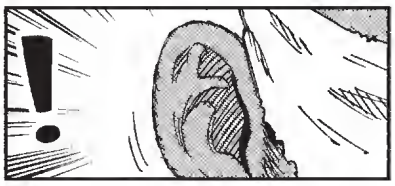

...I ALSO LIKED HOW THE CITY LIGHTS USED TO TWINKLE IN THE NIGHT BEFORE.
YES, BUT...
Vilma Fachiri
(Later known as Caerula Sanguis)


'TIS HOPELESS.
THOSE LIGHTS WILL NE'ER RETURN.
HEH... NO MORE.

WE'LL FIND FOOD IN THIS LAND, WON'T WE?!
H-HEY, BOSS!


THE V-VIEW NEVER FED NO ONE.


VSH
TSH
VSH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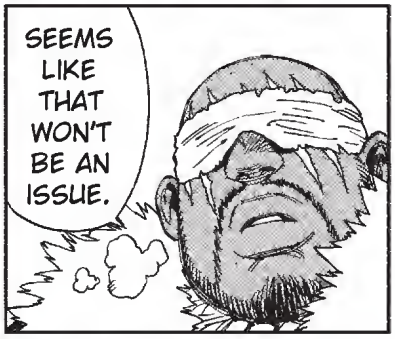
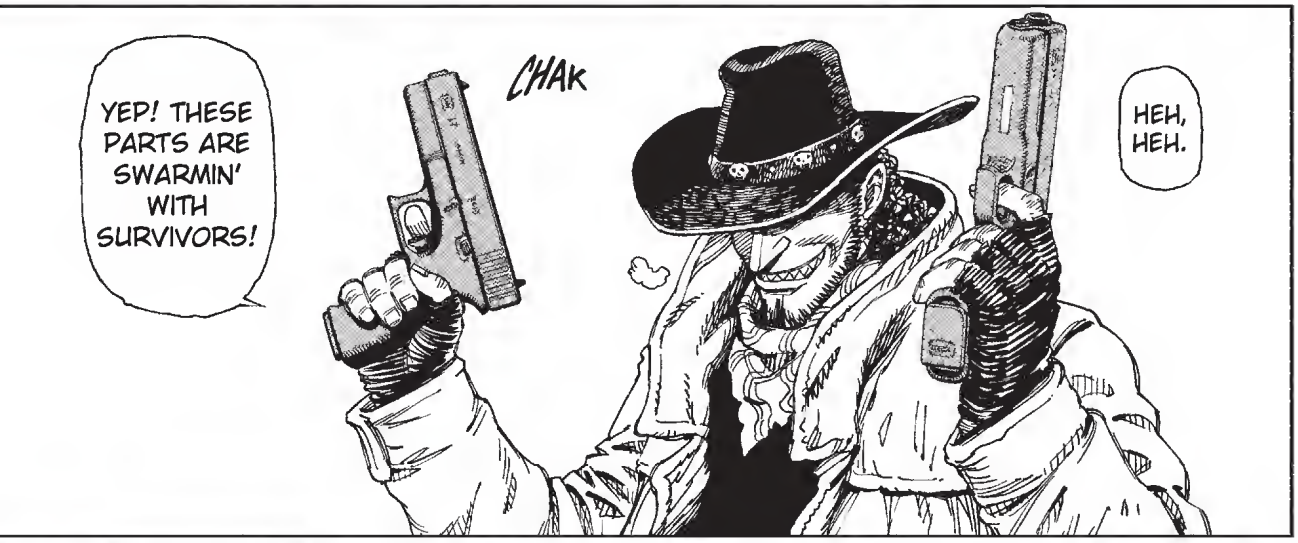
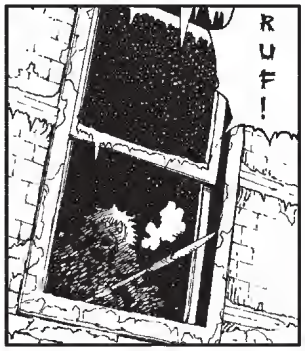
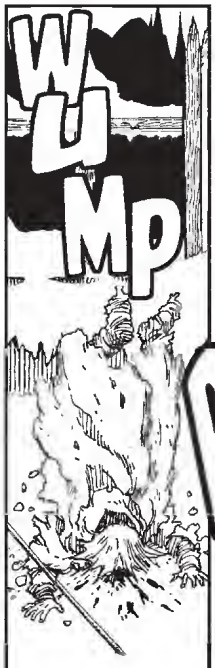

SEEMS LIKE THAT WON'T BE AN ISSUE.


YEP! THESE PARTS ARE SWARMIN' WITH SURVIVORS!
CHAK
HEH, HEH.

CUT YER HOLLERIN' AND BRING IT ON!


RUF!

WUUUH!
RAR!


WUMP

GAH!
BLAM

It was our first battle on the new continent…
…though it was more of a one-sided slaughter, if you ask me.

This was **proof** that we were still surviving on this planet.
Regardless, my cheeks were flushed with delight at such carnage.
POLICE STATION WILL DO, TOO.
HEY, IS THERE A GUN SHOP BURIED 'ROUND HERE?
MY AMMO DONE RUN DRY.
BAH!
LET US *FEAST* ON THIS BOUNTY, ALL!
LET ME BE.
AMMO FROZEN FOR TEN YEARS WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD.
GET OVER THE GUNS, JACCO.
WUUH...
RA...
FEH! CAN'T TALK NO MORE!

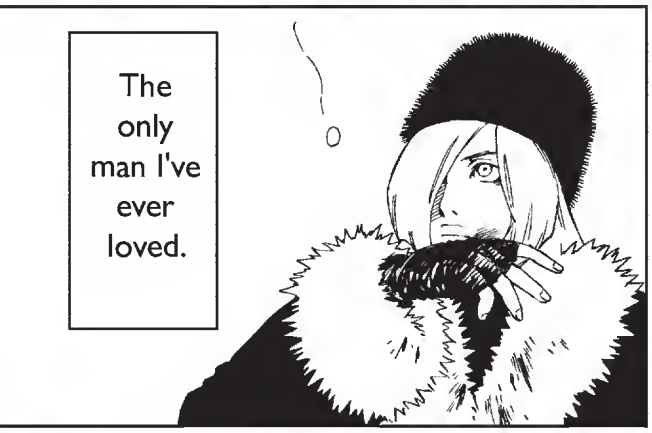
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I HAD HUMAN BLOOD!
BLUH-BLUH-BLUH-BLOOD!
HA, HA, HA!
SKRRP

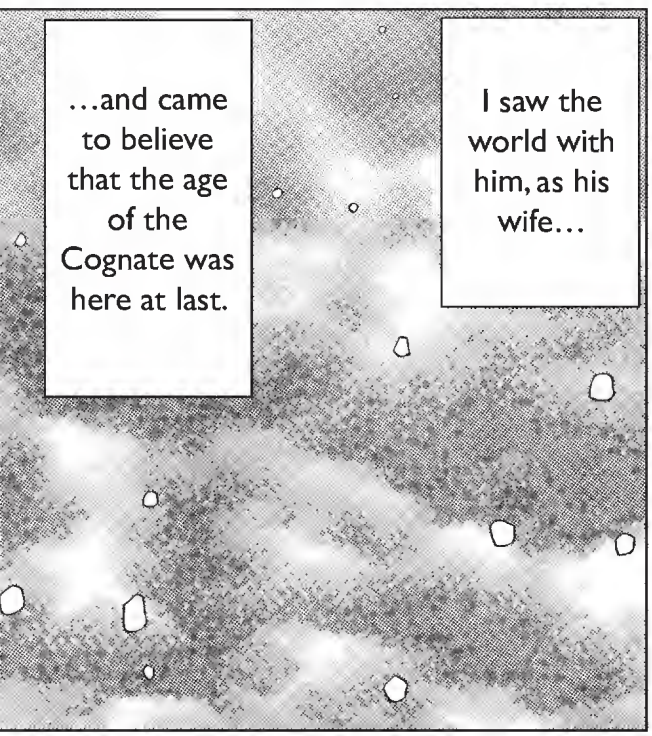
fwp

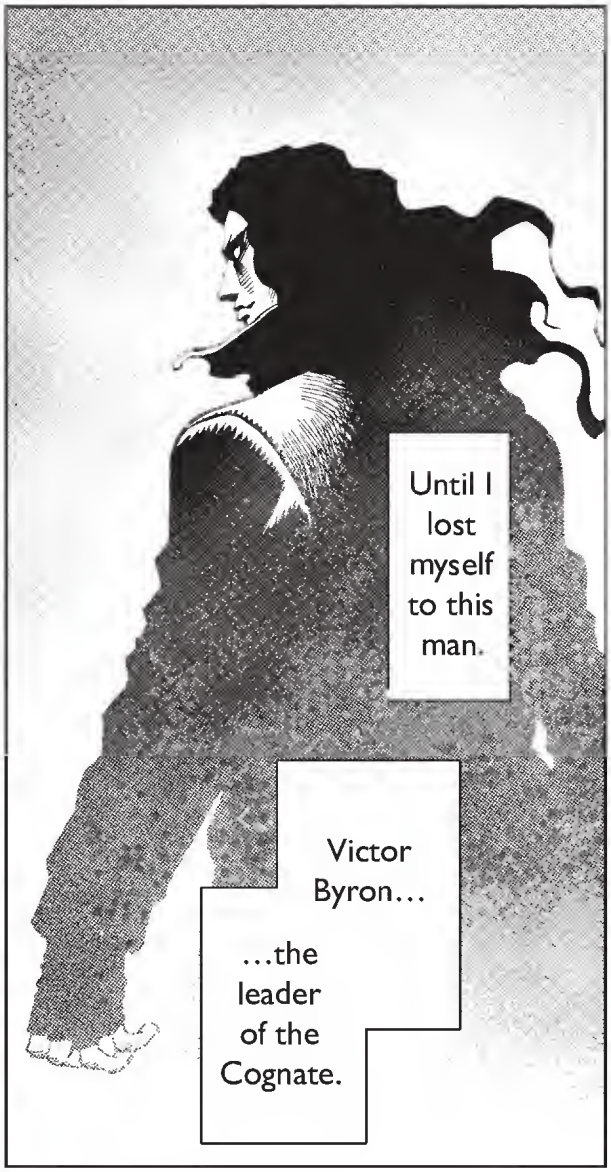
GLAH
GAH!

WE ARE HERE!
THIS LAND IS NOW THE DOMAIN OF...THE COGNATE!

My name is Vilma Fachiri.
I was born in Erdély* in 1808 A.D., during the Habsburg Monarchy.







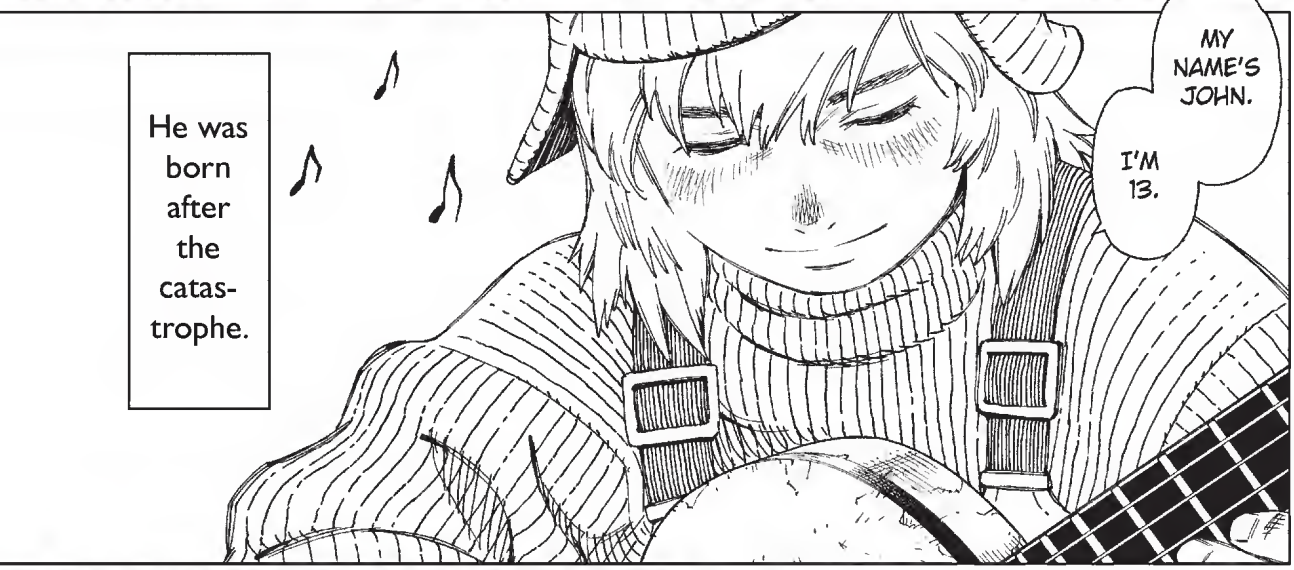
*Erdély: The Hungarian word for Transylvania.

GRRR
Four cold years came and went.
THOOM
I had been careless.
I came upon a group of mutants while off on my own...

Woooo
SHOOO
UNH...

I HEAR...
...THE SOUND... OF A GUITAR...
WAS I TOO LOUD?
OH...
DO GO ON...
NO...

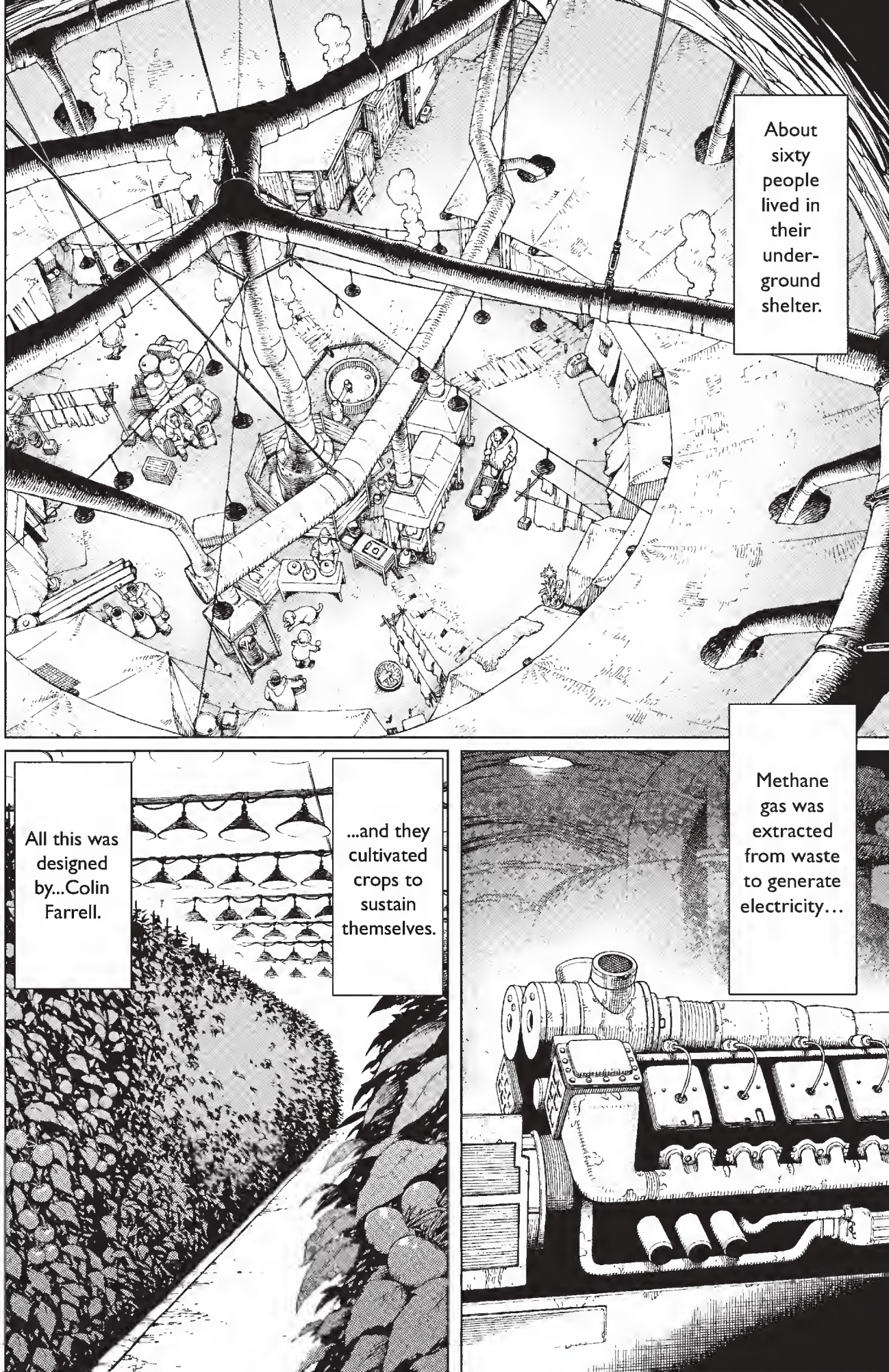
It had been years since I'd heard a guitar...
YOU ARE...?

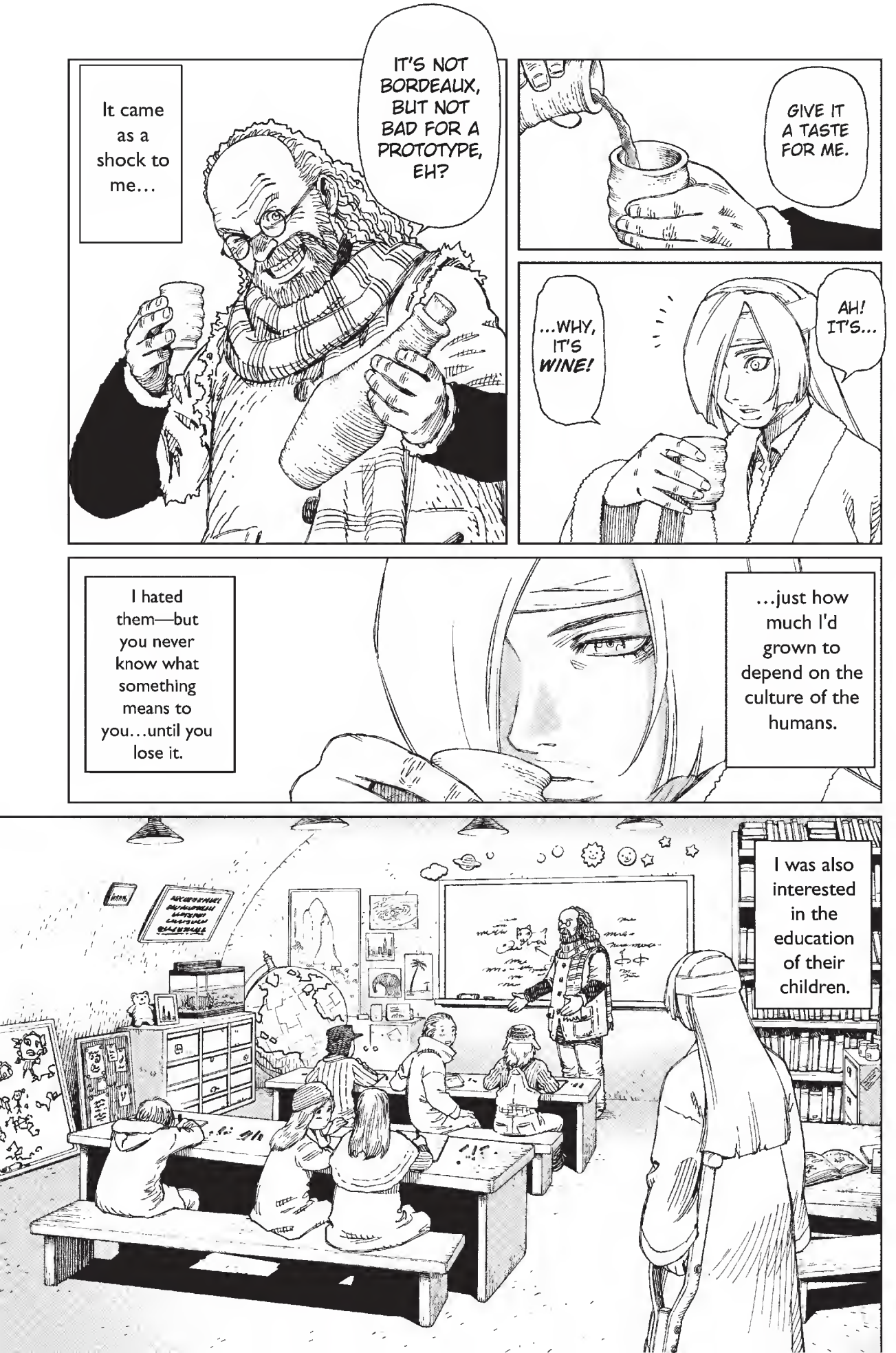

He was born after the catas-trophe.
MY NAME'S JOHN.
I'M 13.

John's young fingers were clumsy...but his tune stirred my soul more than any master's performance.

John's father, Colin Farrell, tended to my wounds.
VERY GOOD!
YOU'LL BE UP AND ABOUT IN NO TIME AT ALL.
HMM.
YOU... AREN'T A NORMAL HUMAN, ARE YOU?
KILL YOU?
DON'T BE A FOOL!
GO ON! KILL ME!
DO IT WHILE I CAN'T MOVE...
HEH, INDEED, I AM NOT. I AM COGNATE.
...NATURAL ENEMY TO HUMANS.

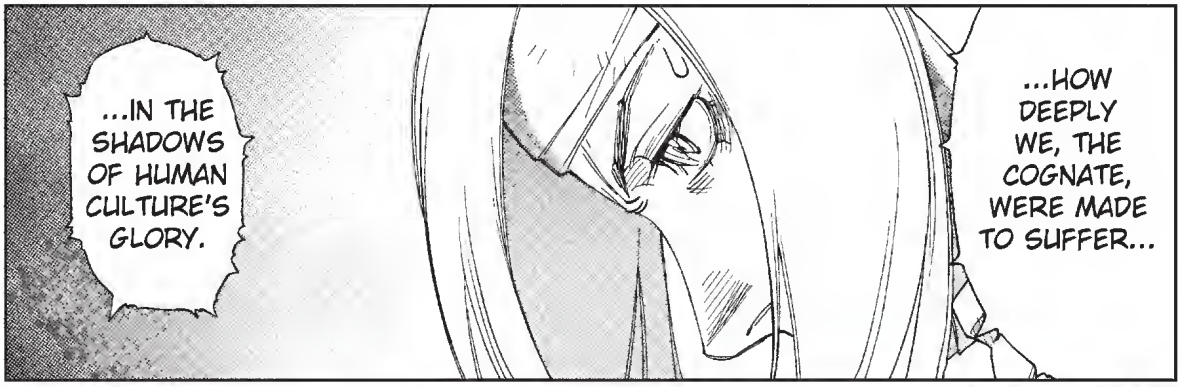
HUMAN!? I'M A VAMPIRE, NOT A HUMAN!
FELLOW HUMANS, SURVIVORS OF OUR GLOBAL CATASTROPHE, SHOULD HELP EACH OTHER...
YOU'RE A VAMPIRE?
THEN CAN YOU TRANSFORM INTO A BAT?
OR GET BURNED BY A CROSS? SUNLIGHT—DOES IT TURN YOU INTO ASH?
HA! WHAT A LOAD OF SUPERSTITIOUS BUNK!
YOU'RE HUMAN—JUST LIKE ME.
...THAT A RARE VIRUS CAUSED THIS CHANGE TO YOUR DNA.
BEFORE THE CATAS-TROPHE, I WAS A LOWLY SCIENTIST. BIOLOGY WASN'T MY FIELD, BUT I'D GUESS...


About sixty people lived in their under-ground shelter.
Methane gas was extracted from waste to generate electricity…
...and they cultivated crops to sustain themselves.
All this was designed by...Colin Farrell.

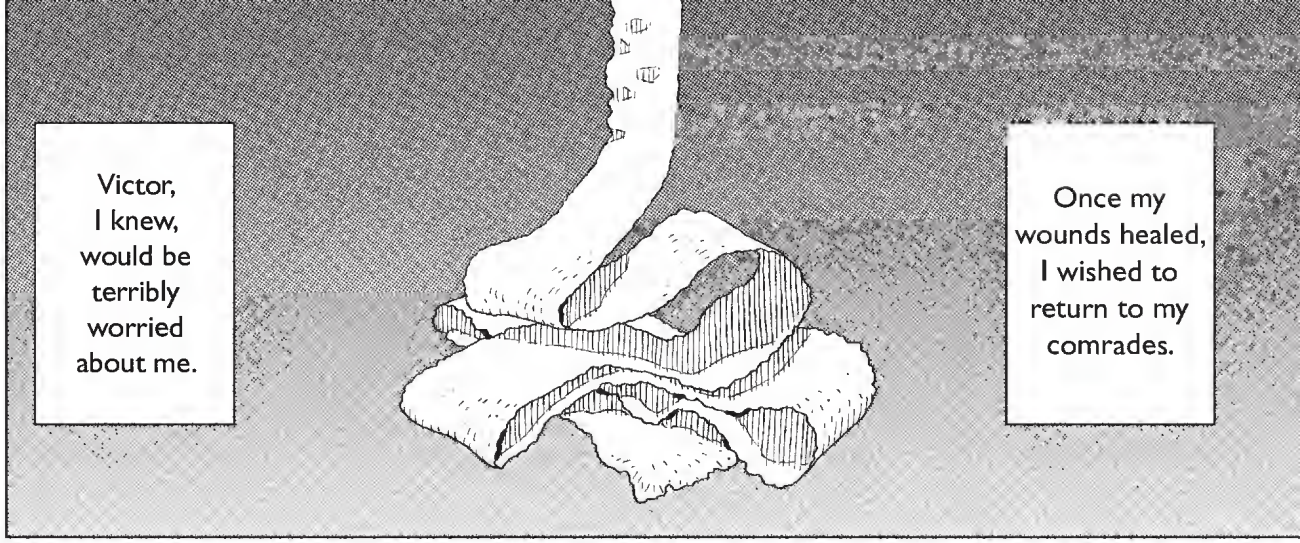

It came as a shock to me…
IT'S NOT BORDEAUX, BUT NOT BAD FOR A PROTOTYPE, EH?
GIVE IT A TASTE FOR ME.
AH! IT'S…
…WHY, IT'S WINE!
I hated them—but you never know what something means to you…until you lose it.
…just how much I'd grown to depend on the culture of the humans.
I was also interested in the education of their children.

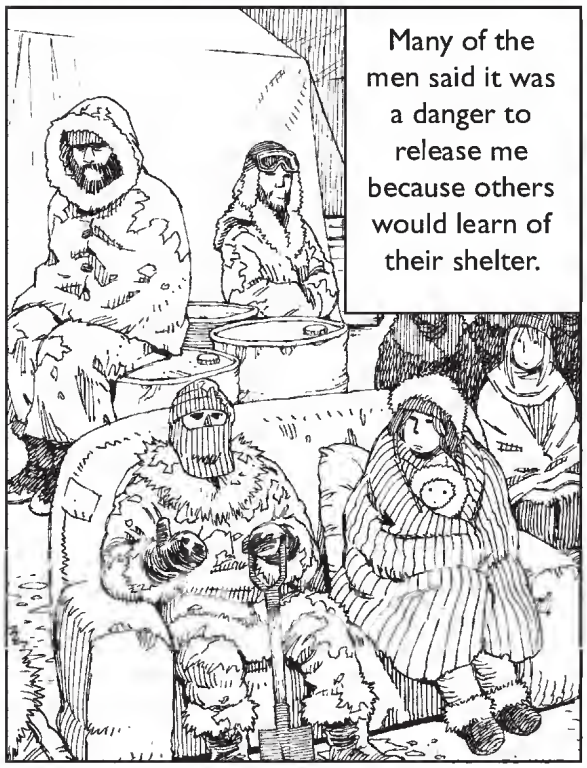
WHY TEACH SUCH THINGS IN THIS AGE?
The Emperor's New Mind
THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY, QUANTUM MECHANICS...
The Meaning of Relativity
Ultimate Computing
The Strange Theory of Light and Matter
The Inflationary Universe
Micromégas
Penrose.R
MY PLAN IS TO TEACH EVERYTHING I KNOW TO MY SON.
PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THIS AGE! THE TECHNOLOGICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR FOREFATHERS CANNOT BE CONSIGNED TO OBLIVION.
YOU BELIEVE THAT CIVILIZATION WILL RETURN TO THE WAY IT WAS...
...IT WILL COME!
THIS HARSH WINTER WILL SOME DAY END AND SPRING WILL COME...
...IN A FEW YEARS, OR A FEW HUNDRED, BUT...

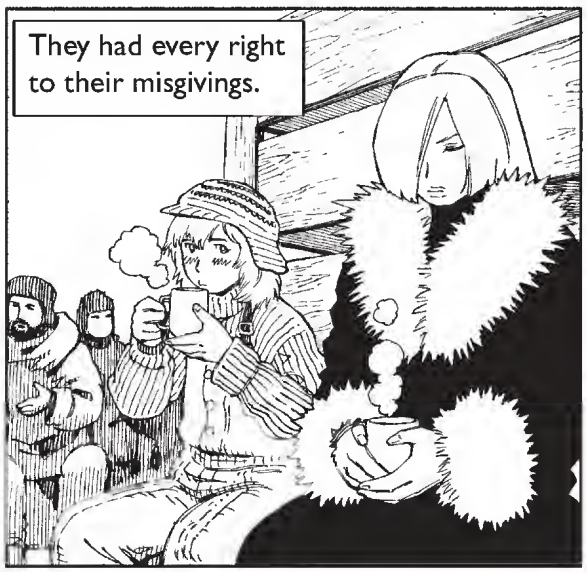
I MUST SAY...
...WHILE I ADMIRE YOUR LEADERSHIP, YOUR EFFORTS TO KEEP CIVILIZATION ALIVE...
...YOU CAN'T KNOW...
A B C D E F G H I J
L M N O P Q R
1 2 3 4

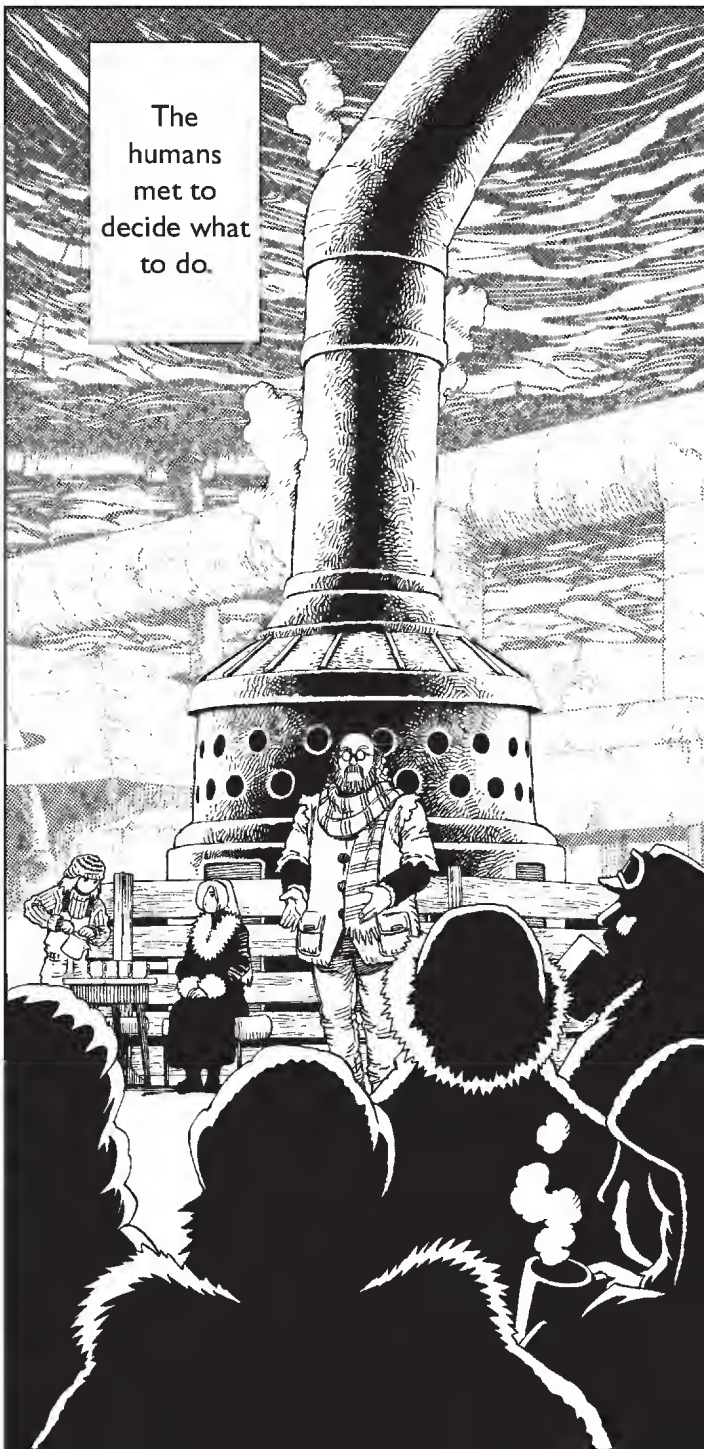

...HOW DEEPLY WE, THE COGNATE, WERE MADE TO SUFFER...
...IN THE SHADOWS OF HUMAN CULTURE'S GLORY.

.....
THOSE TIMES... I DON'T WANT... EVER AGAIN.

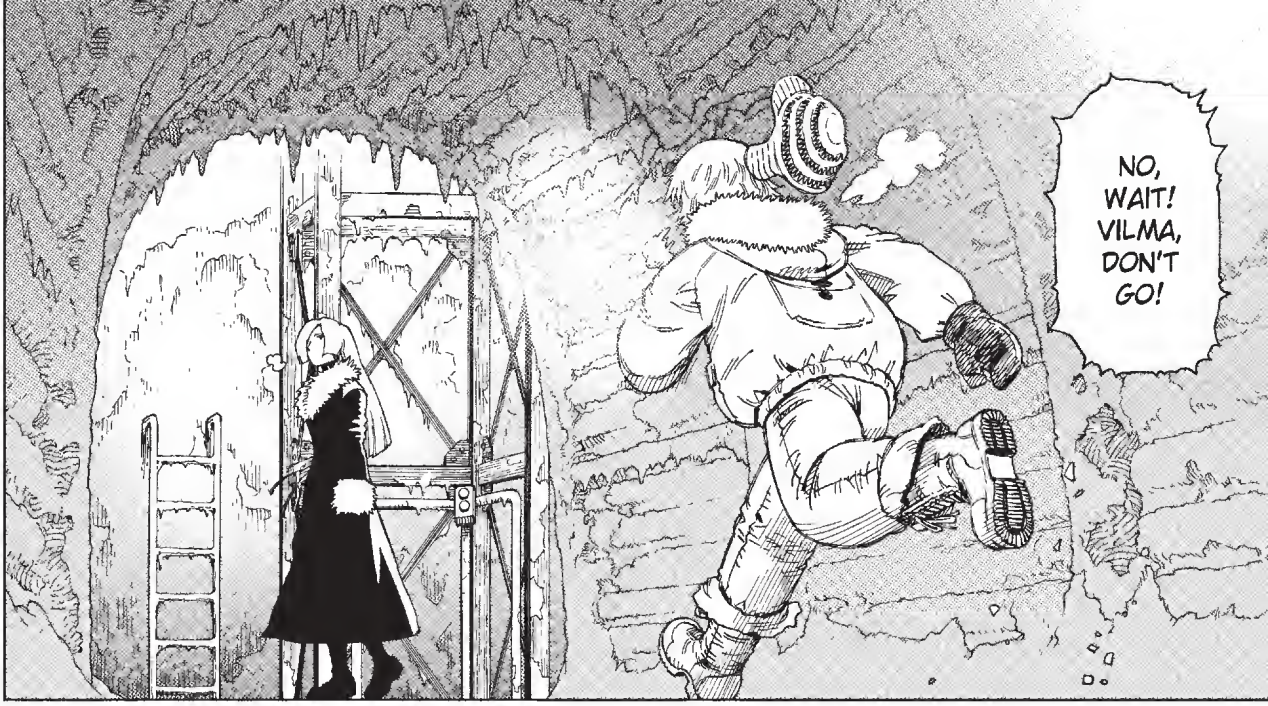

Victor, I knew, would be terribly worried about me.
Once my wounds healed, I wished to return to my comrades.

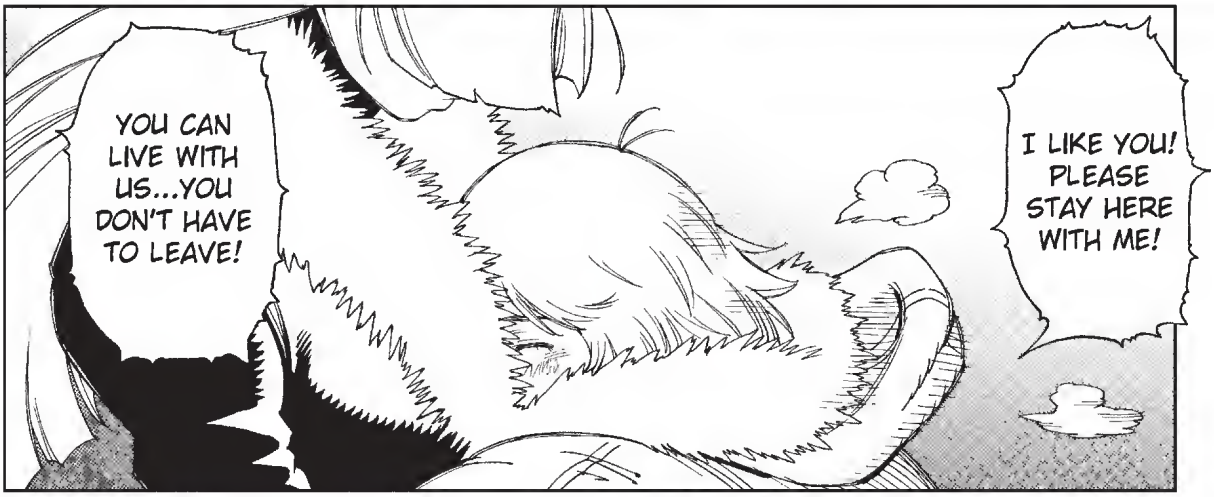

Many of the men said it was a danger to release me because others would learn of their shelter.


They had every right to their misgivings.

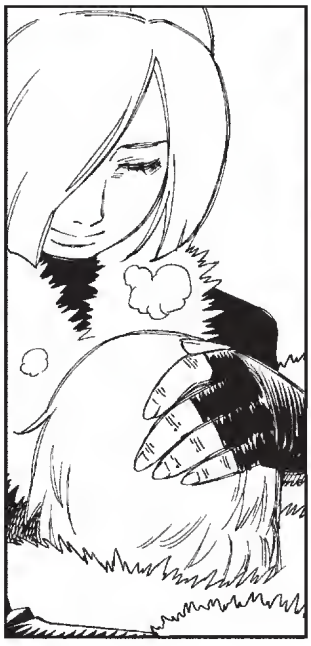

The humans met to decide what to do.

Was there a way to resolve this amicably...?
But indebted to them for my life, I had begun to feel an affinity toward these people.
AH? OH!
LET US MAKE PEACE WITH BYRON AND HIS MEN!
I'D LIKE YOU, VILMA, TO BE OUR EMISSARY OF PEACE.
LET US WORK WITH THEM AND RIDE OUT THIS DIFFICULT TIME! WE CANNOT HIDE FOREVER.
ONE DAY WE WILL HAVE TO RISE TO THE SURFACE.

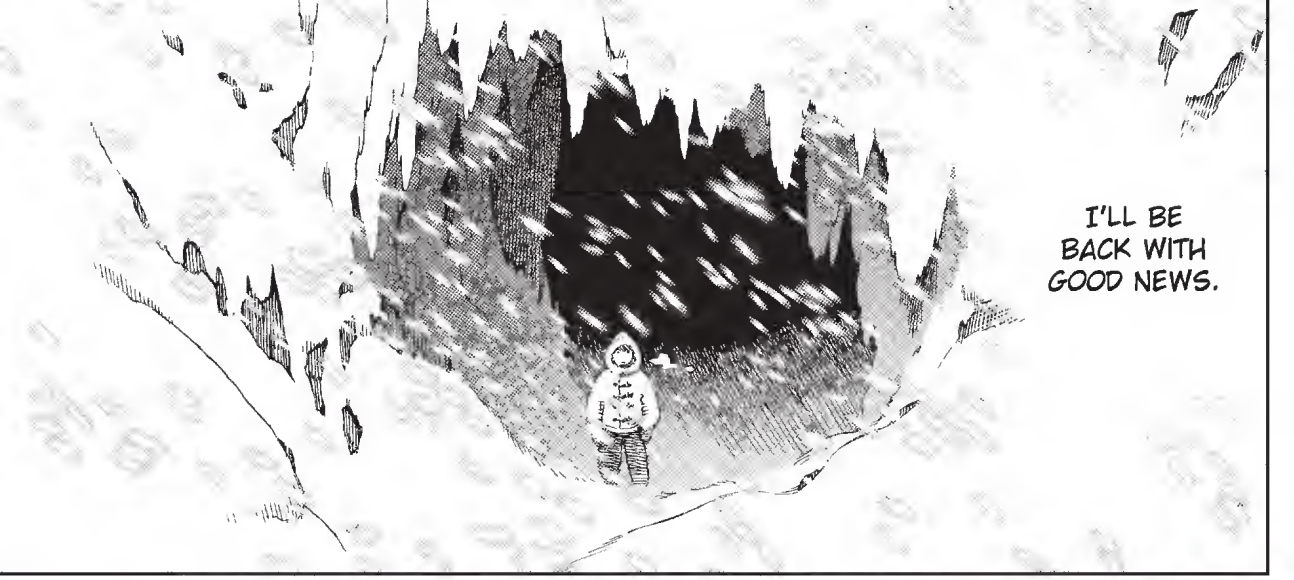

NO, WAIT! VILMA, DON'T GO!


YOU CAN LIVE WITH US...YOU DON'T HAVE TO LEAVE!
I LIKE YOU! PLEASE STAY HERE WITH ME!

WAIT FOR ME...
I LIKE YOU, TOO, JOHN.

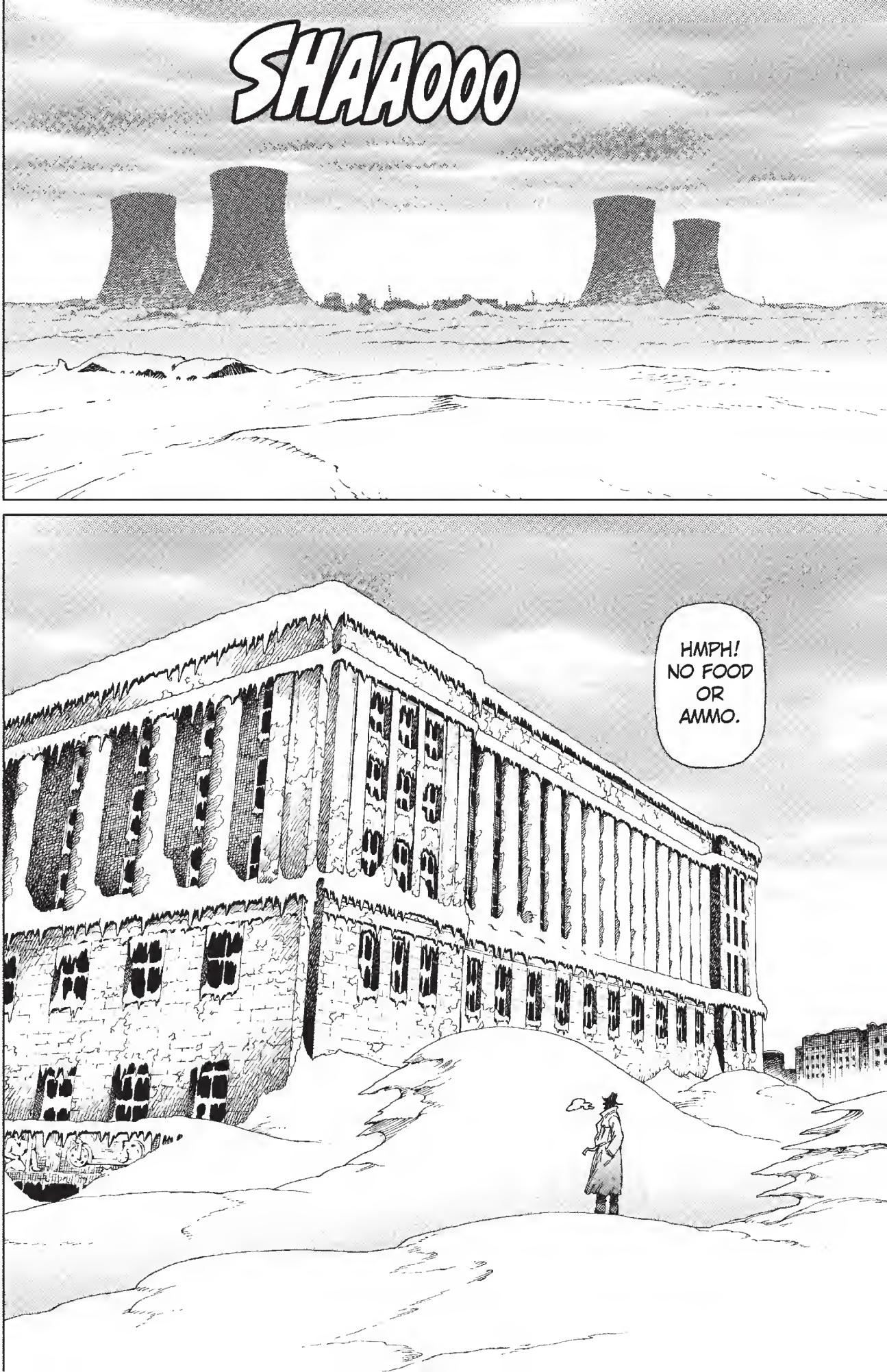


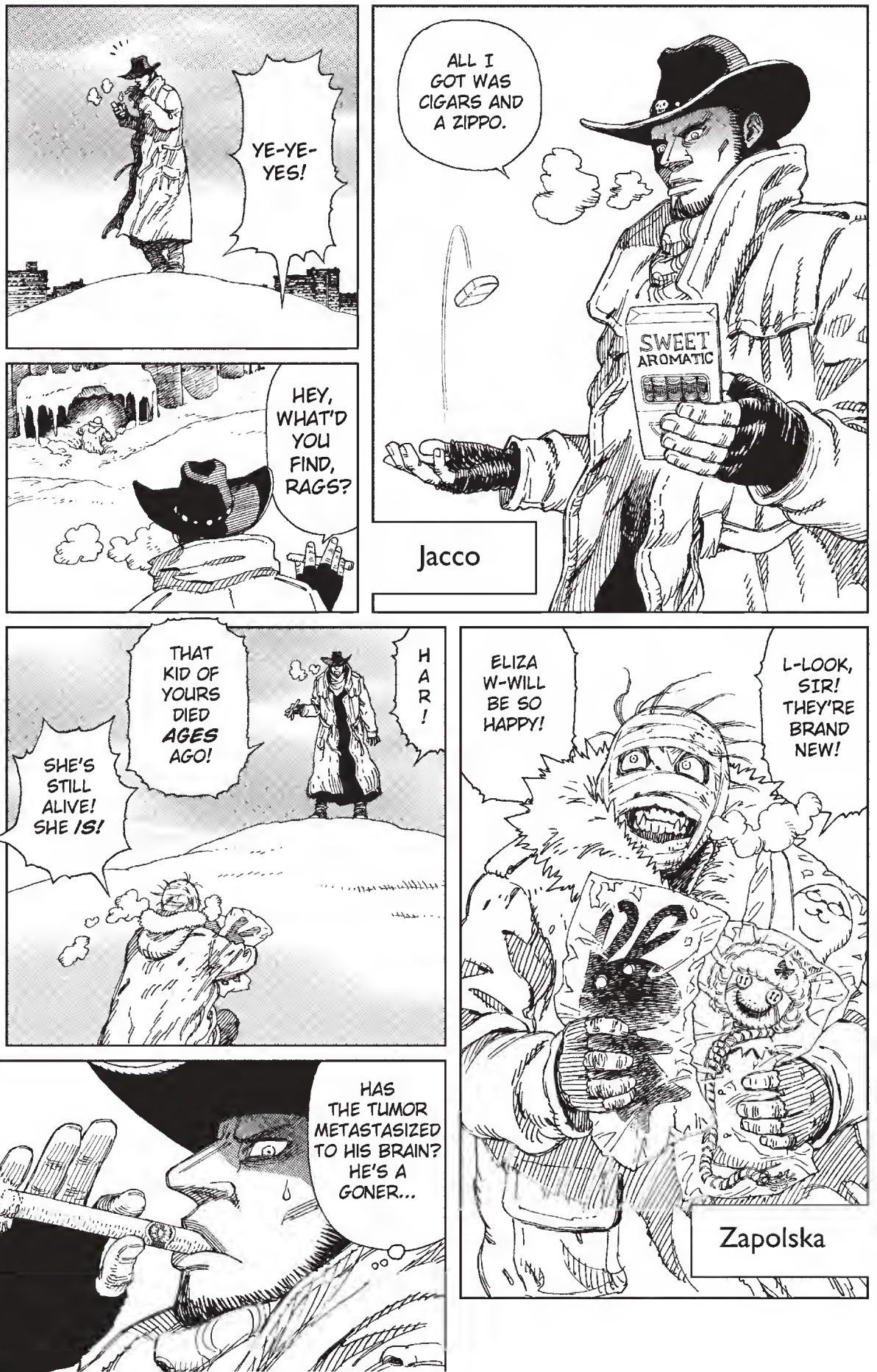
I'LL LET YOU SUCK MY BLOOD WHEN YOU GET HUNGRY...


I'LL BE BACK WITH GOOD NEWS.

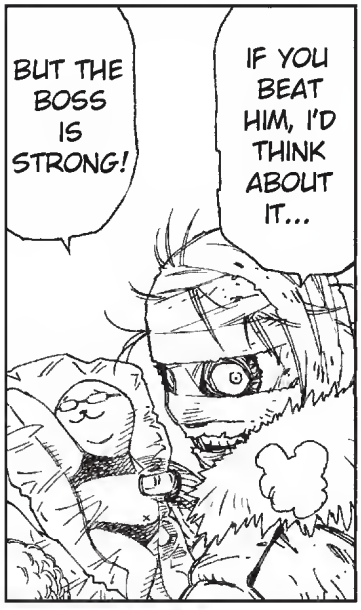
JUST WAIT... I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR GUITAR AGAIN...

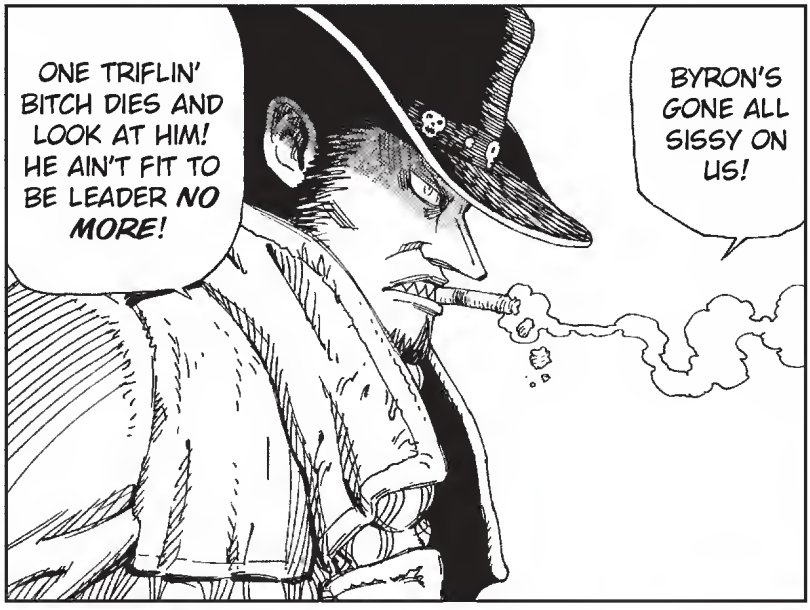
PHASE 46:
I Believed He Felt the Same


SHAAOOO
HMPH! NO FOOD OR AMMO.

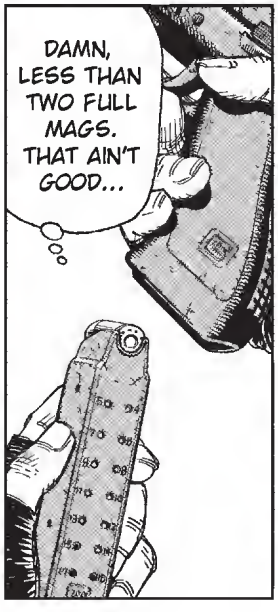

YE-YE-YES!
ALL I GOT WAS CIGARS AND A ZIPPO.
SWEET AROMATIC
Jacco
HEY, WHAT'D YOU FIND, RAGS?
HAR!
THAT KID OF YOURS DIED AGES AGO!
SHE'S STILL ALIVE! SHE IS!
ELIZA W-WILL BE SO HAPPY!
L-LOOK, SIR! THEY'RE BRAND NEW!
Zapolska
HAS THE TUMOR METASTASIZED TO HIS BRAIN? HE'S A GONER...

WH...WHY DO YOU ASK?
WILL YOU FOLLOW ME IF I BECOME THE NEW BOSS?
HEY, RAGS?
3018


BUT THE BOSS IS STRONG!
IF YOU BEAT HIM, I'D THINK ABOUT IT...


ONE TRIFLIN' BITCH DIES AND LOOK AT HIM! HE AIN'T FIT TO BE LEADER *NO MORE*!
BYRON'S GONE ALL SISSY ON US!

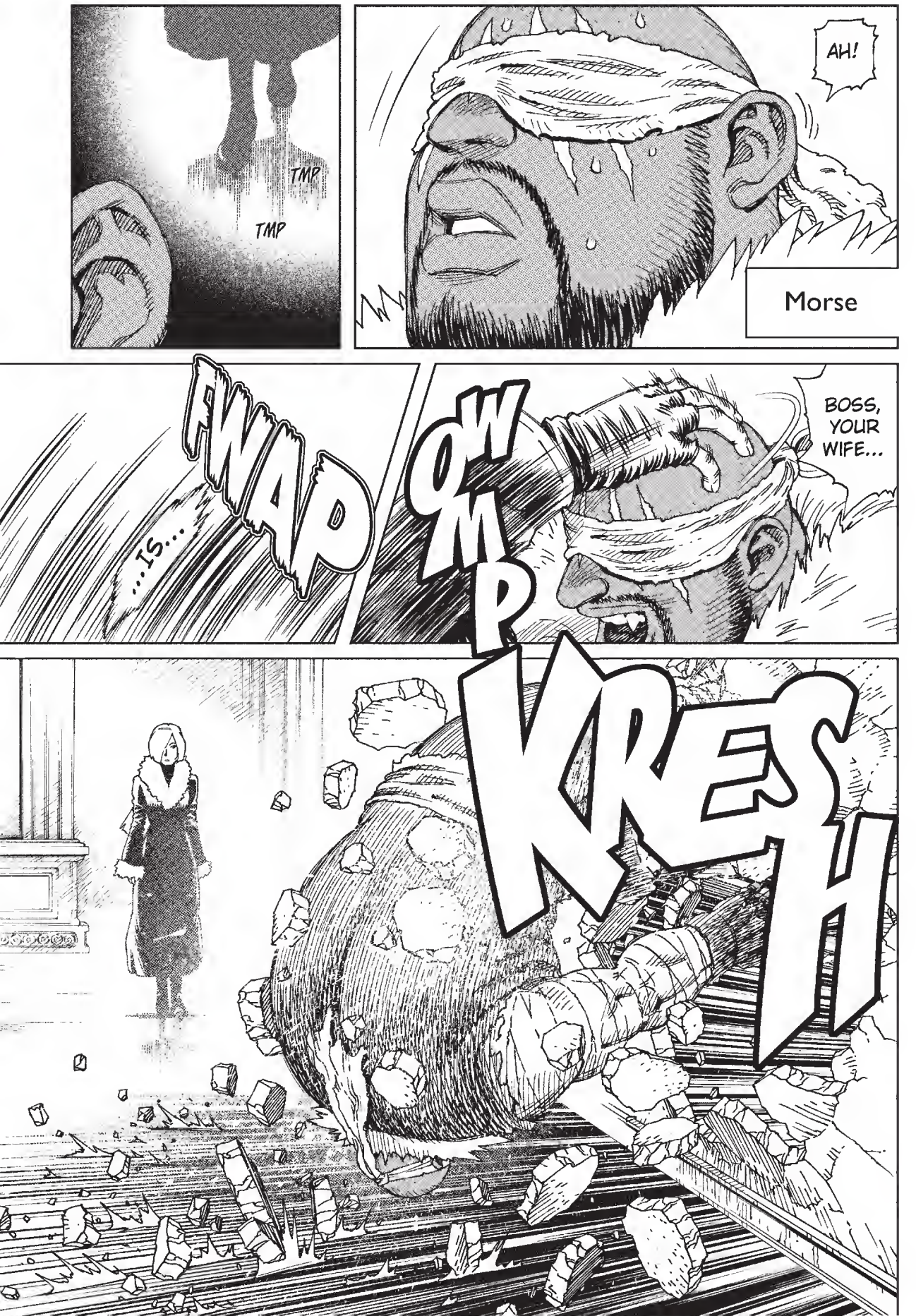
?!
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT SOMEONE DYING?
TKSH


DAMN, LESS THAN TWO FULL MAGS. THAT AIN'T GOOD...

THINK I HAVE A CHANCE NOW THAT HE'S GONE ALL SOFT.

VILMA!

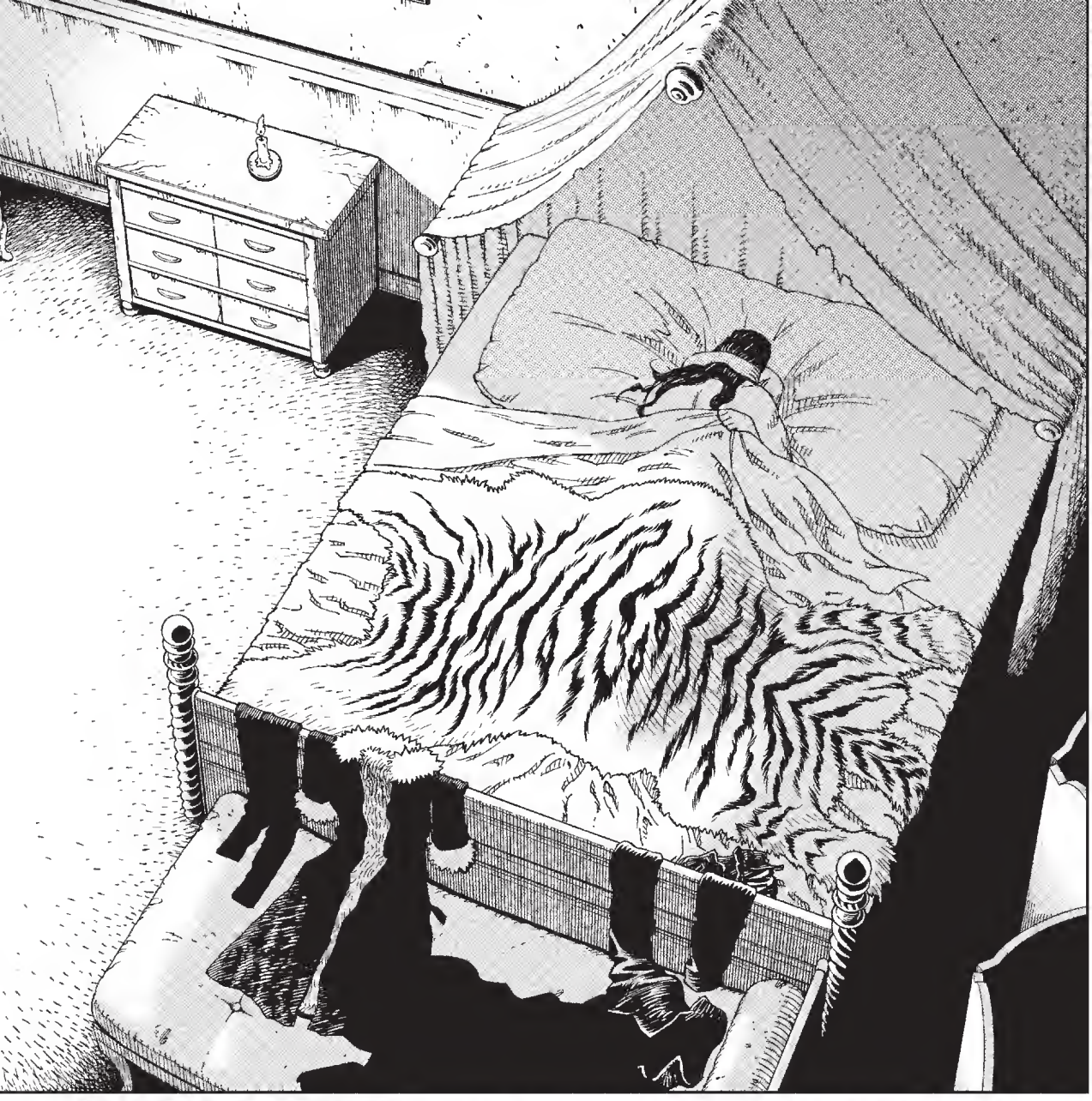
GRAAA
C-CALM DOWN, BOSS!
UNHAND ME!
Victor Byron


TMP
TMP
AH!
Morse
...IS...
FWAP
OW
MP
BOSS, YOUR WIFE...
KRE
H

WITH THIS, MY ONE-THOUSAND YEARS OF LIFE SHALL PERISH!
NOT A RAY OF HOPE SHINES UPON THIS SOUL!
THOK
WUP
VIP
VIP
FAP
TNK

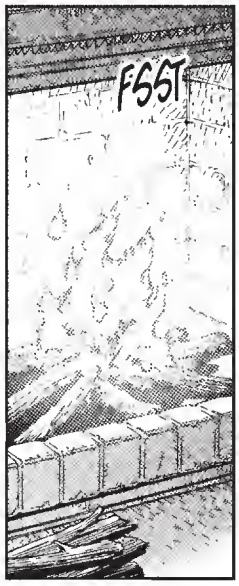
WUD
...TO BE CAUGHT OFF GUARD, VICTOR.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU...
SHOOK
GWOM
VILMA, FIRE OF MY LIFE!
MY LOVE!
OH!
OH!

I'd known Victor more than thirty years, but I had never seen him expose himself like that.
Emotion welled up inside me at the realization of how deeply he loved me...

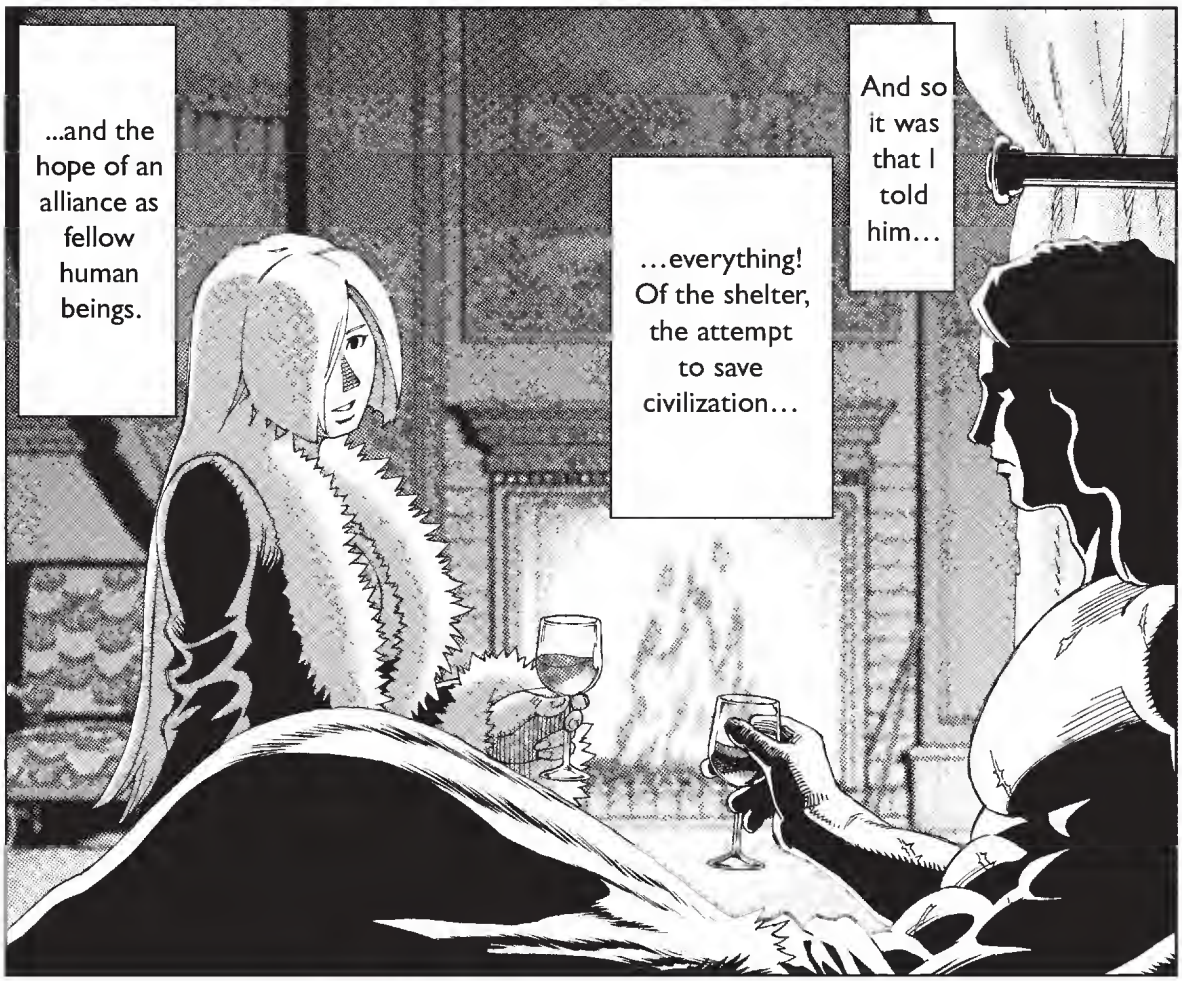


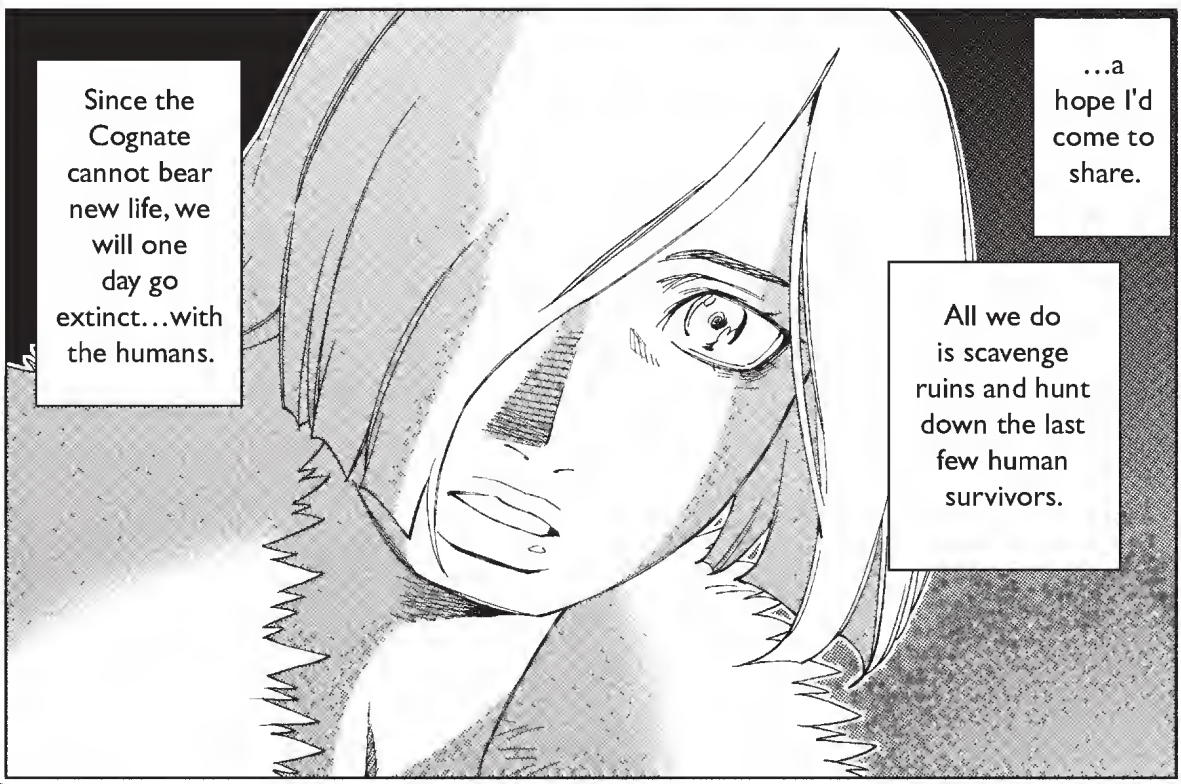
SUCH A FINE SCAR.

YOUR WOUND WAS WELL -TENDED.

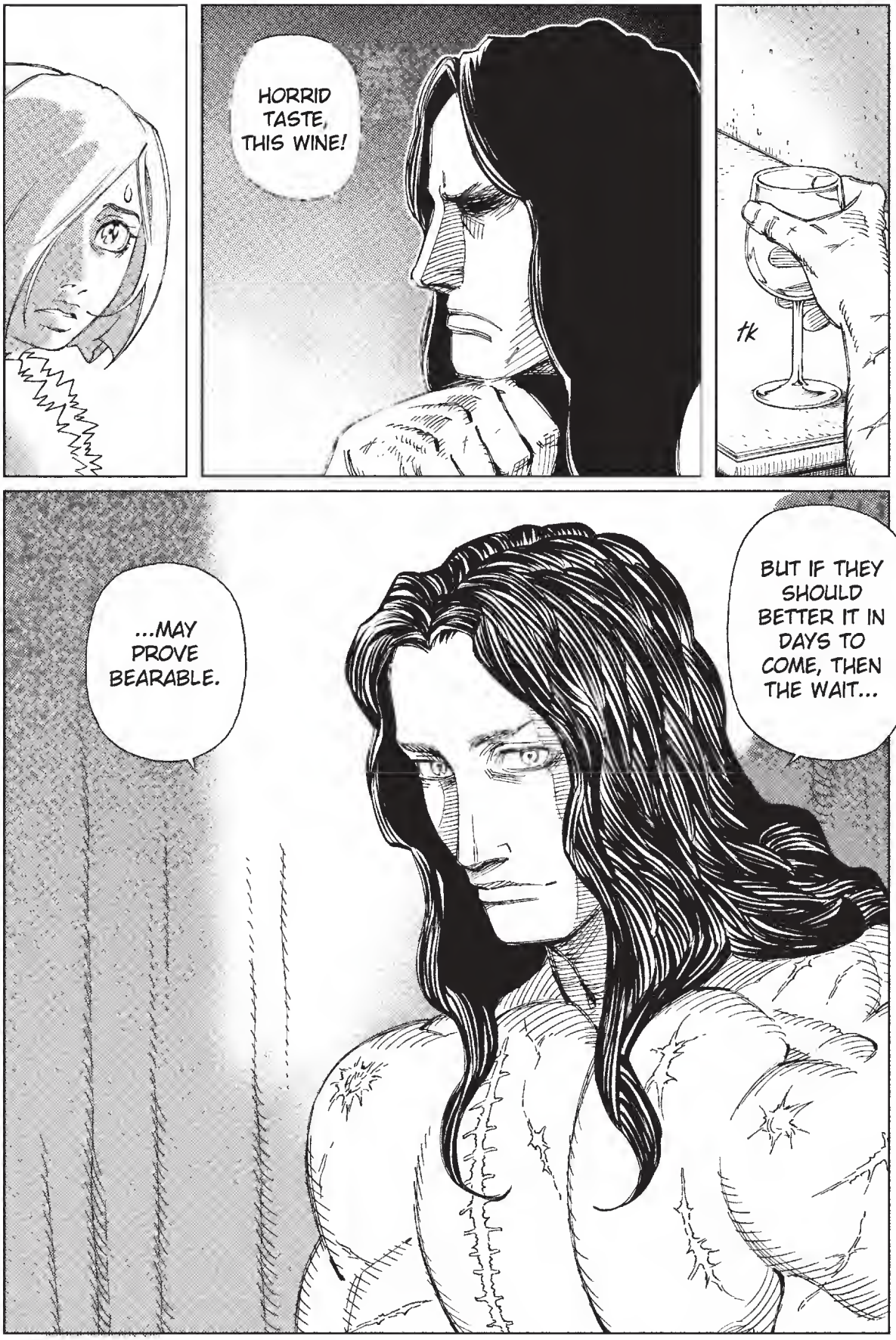

FSST

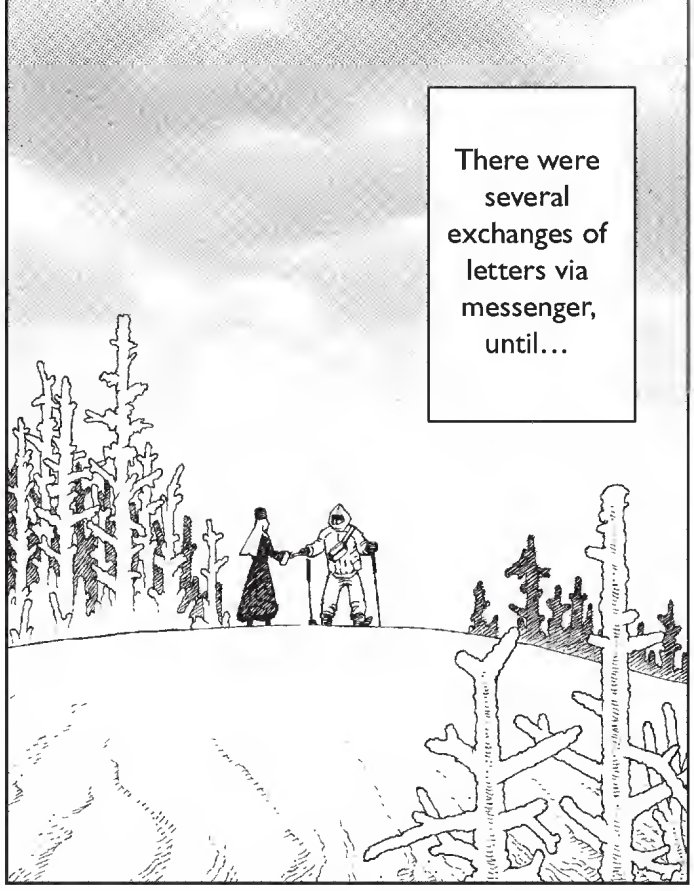
gup
gup
gup
It was impossible to hide anything from Victor.
But there was the matter of my vow to John...
.....
HMM.
THIS WINE WAS MADE...
...BY THOSE WHO SAVED MY LIFE.

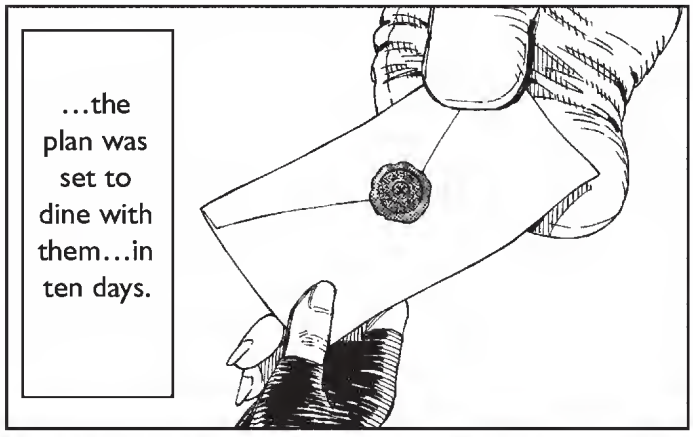

...and the hope of an alliance as fellow human beings.
...everything! Of the shelter, the attempt to save civilization...
And so it was that I told him...


Since the Cognate cannot bear new life, we will one day go extinct...with the humans.
...a hope I'd come to share.
All we do is scavenge ruins and hunt down the last few human survivors.

It was not like me...
I grew hoarse. Never in my life had I made such a speech, been so full of passion.
KOFF
I felt so insecure, as if I were a teenager again.
How would Victor react to all this?
...no, not at all.
Did I even stand a chance of making him see?
He'd lived five times longer than I had, and his hatred of the humans ran far deeper.
—of **everyone** at the shelter—was riding on his decision.
It was no exaggeration that the fate of John and Keiran—

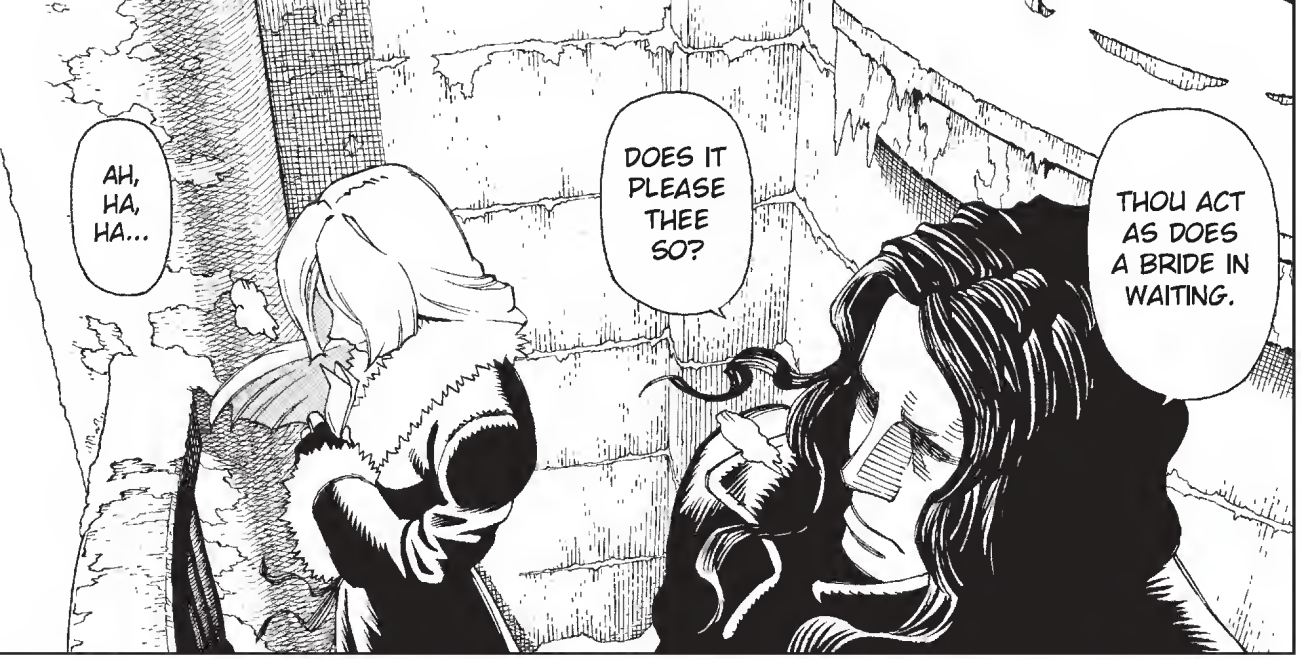

HORRID TASTE, THIS WINE!
tk
BUT IF THEY SHOULD BETTER IT IN DAYS TO COME, THEN THE WAIT...
...MAY PROVE BEARABLE.


There were several exchanges of letters via messenger, until…

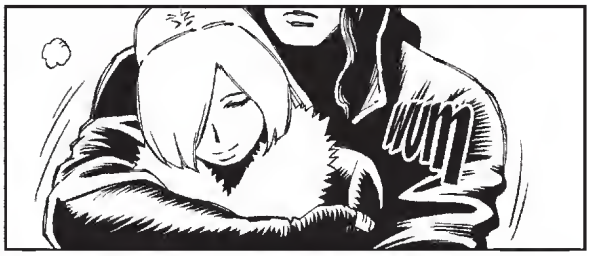

…the plan was set to dine with them…in ten days.

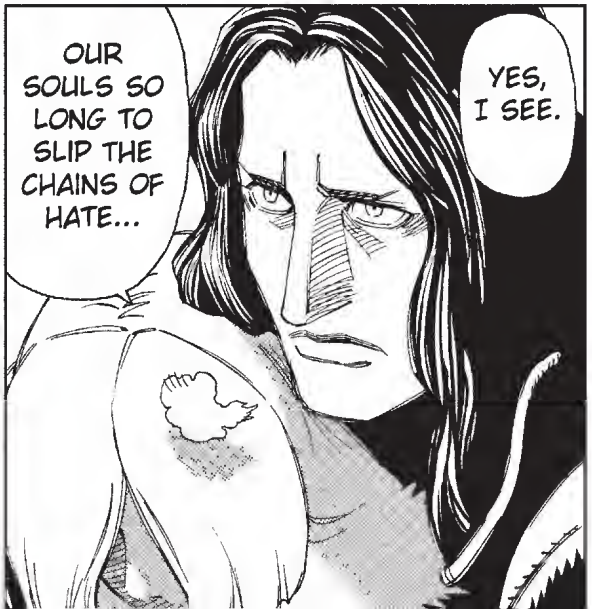
All I had to do…was wait.
Thinking back, those were the happiest days of my life.

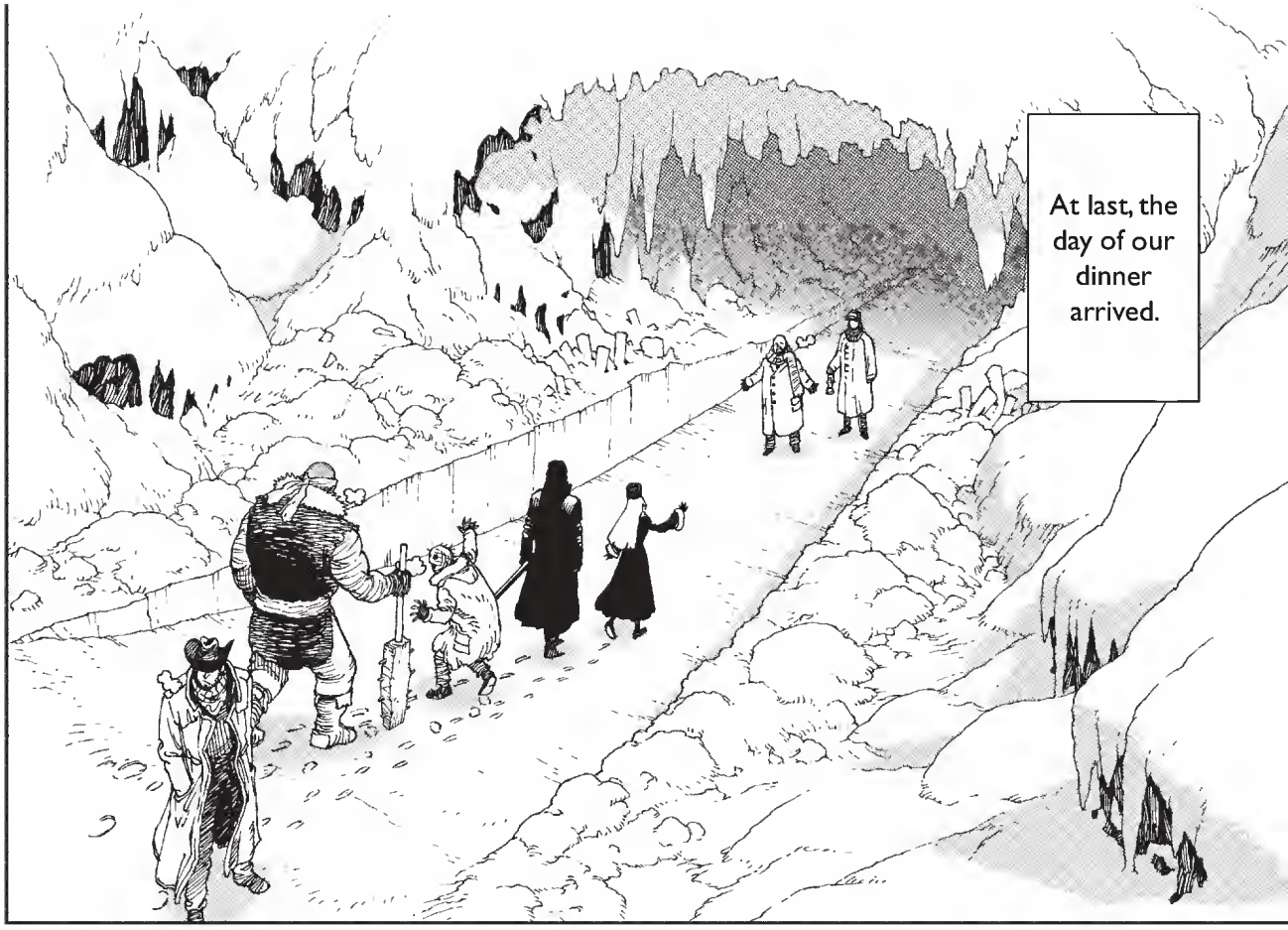
SHADA

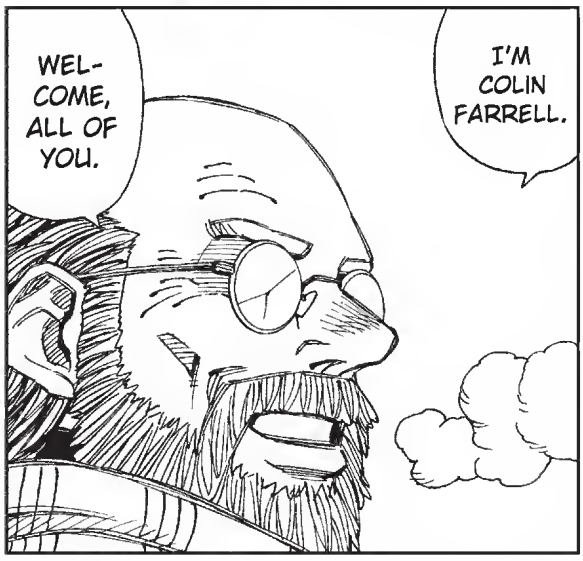


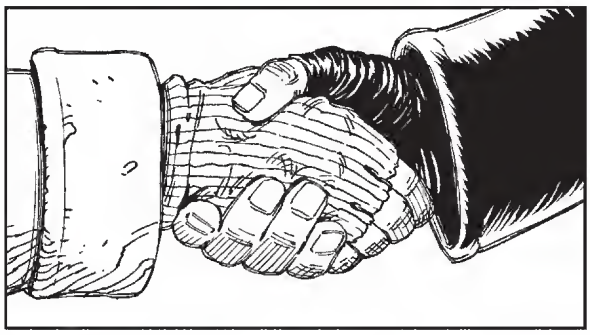
Only later would I learn that this embrace meant something else.

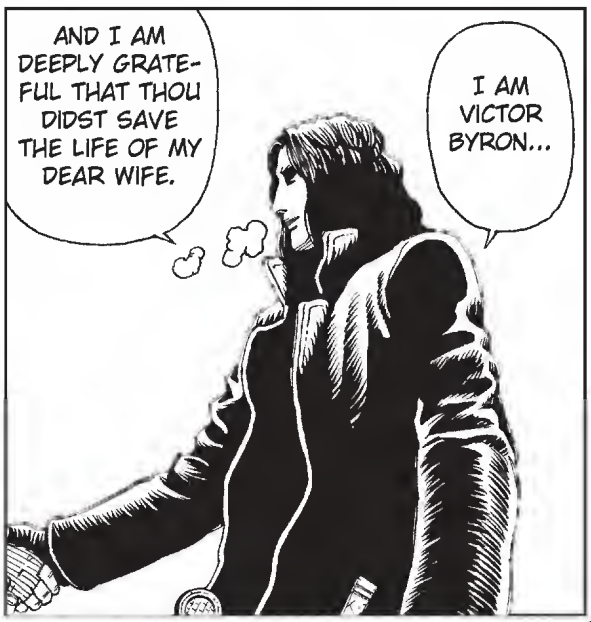


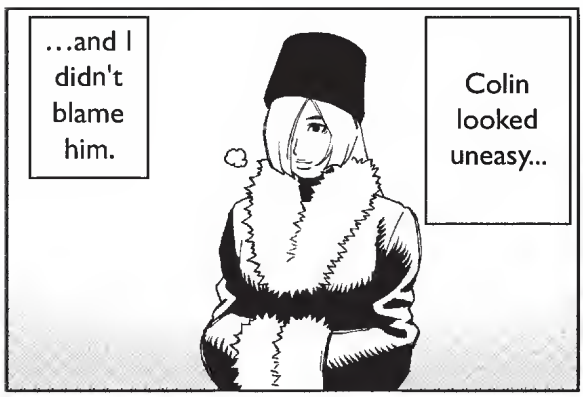



At last, the day of our dinner arrived.

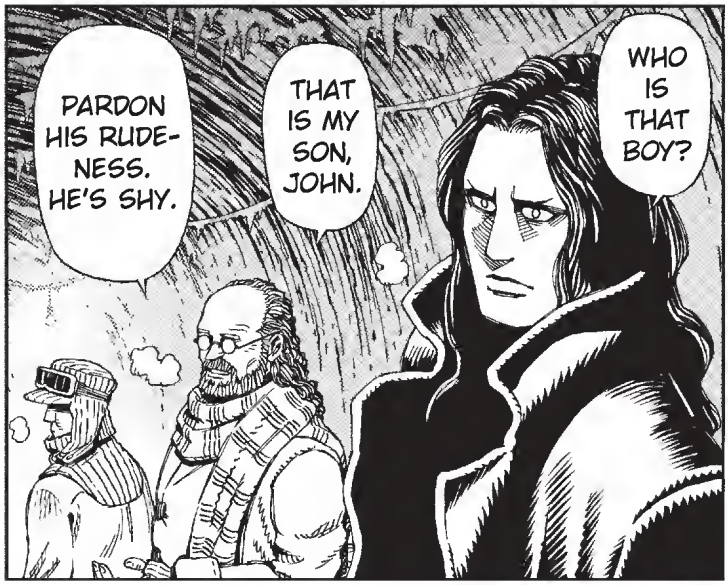

WEL-COME, ALL OF YOU.
I'M COLIN FARRELL.

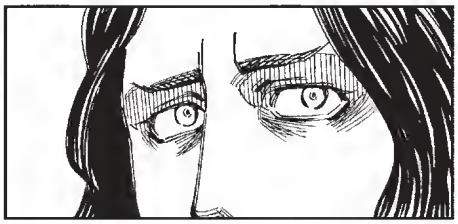



AND I AM DEEPLY GRATE-FUL THAT THOU DIDST SAVE THE LIFE OF MY DEAR WIFE.
I AM VICTOR BYRON...


...and I didn't blame him.
Colin looked uneasy...

I NEVER SAW THIS PATH BEFORE...
JOHN!
WUM
SMSH
?!
WE'VE FIXED A NICE WARM MEAL FOR YOU.
JUST THIS WAY.


WHO IS THAT BOY?
THAT IS MY SON, JOHN.
PARDON HIS RUDE-NESS. HE'S SHY.

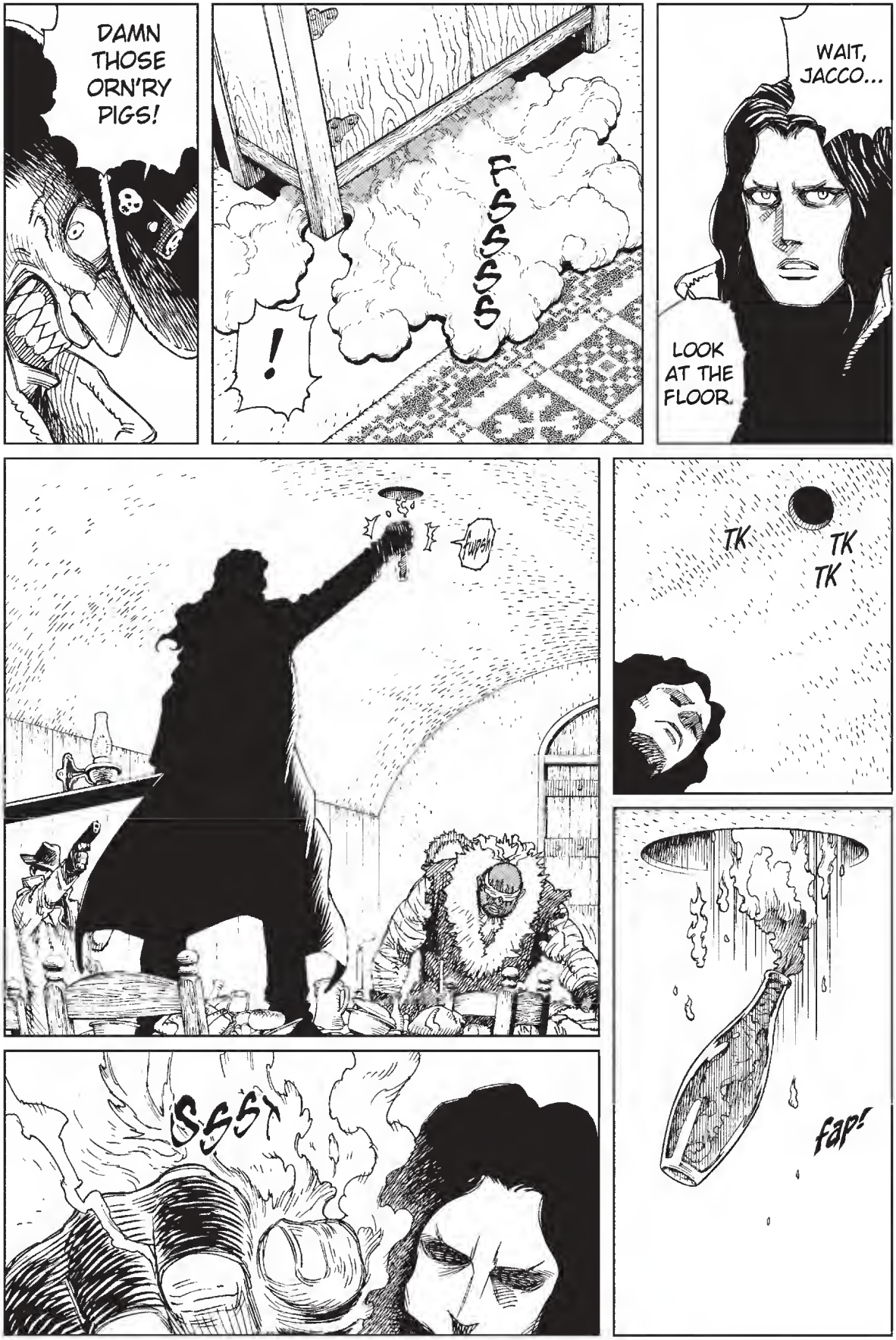


HERE WE ARE!
PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT.

WHY DON'T YOU HELP YOURSELVES FIRST?
WE DON'T WANT IT TO GET COLD...
S-SO TASTY ...
I'LL FIND LADY VILMA FOR YOU.
klik
TING!
I-IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I'VE HAD REAL COOKED MEAT!
WOO!
MNCH GNCH
MMM! SUCH S-SALTY GOODNESS!
...?!
ACK

JOHN, I'M HERE! I KEPT THE PROMISE I MADE YOU!
DID THE MEN SCARE YOU?
WHAT IS IT, EH?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM! THEY MAY BE ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES, BUT VICTOR WILL SURELY PROTECT YOU!
WE'RE FRIENDS, AFTER ALL.
WHAT ?
VILMA... PLEASE FORGIVE HIM...MY FATHER...
IT'S NOT THAT. IT'S...

FWOD
AGH!
snf
snf
SOME-
THING
DOESN'T
SMELL
RIGHT
...
ZAPOL!
DAMN!
IT'S A
TRAP!
KANG
BAM!
SKRRR.

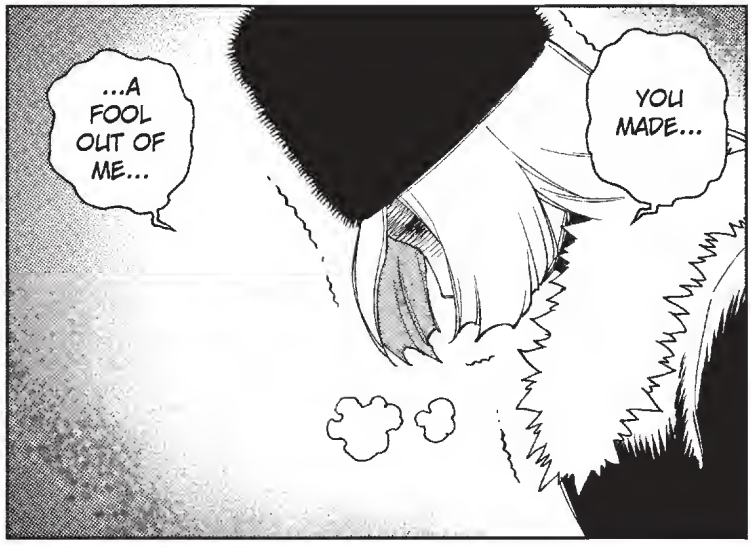


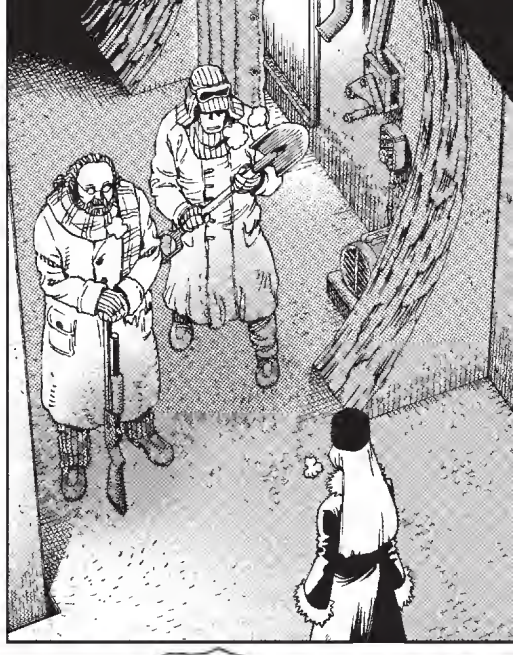
*Carbon disulfide: A compound of carbon and sulfur known as the molecular formula, CS2. In its pure state, CS2 is an aromatic, colorless liquid, though impurities can give it a yellow color and a foul odor. This volatile vapor is heavier than air, poisonous, and extremely flammable.

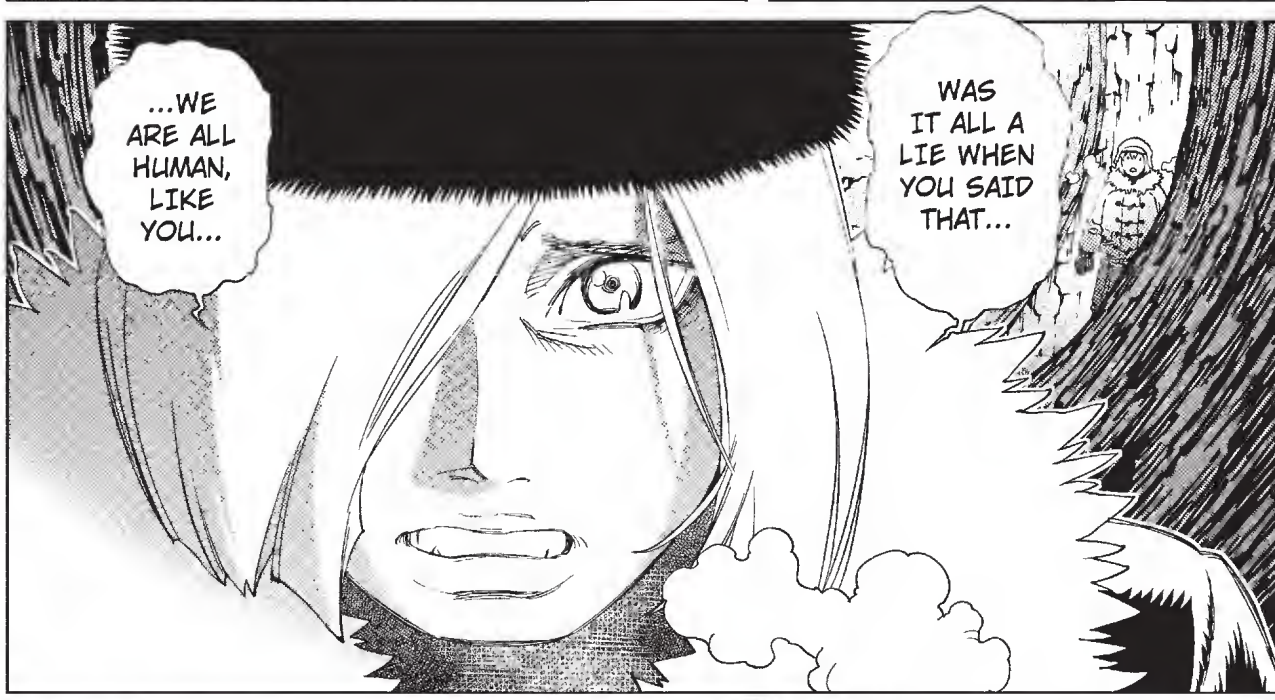
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
RELAX! CARBON DI-SULFIDE* IS POISONOUS AND FLAMMA-BLE. A SMALL SPARK WILL SET IT OFF.
IT DIDN'T BLOW UP!
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WAIT...
IT'LL IGNITE WHEN THEY RUSH TO BREAK DOWN THE DOOR.
hff
uff
hff
uff

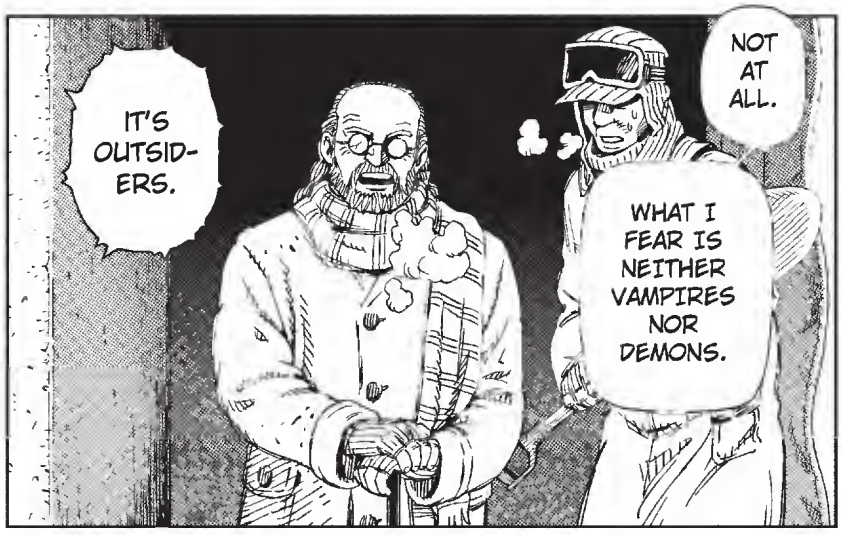
ZAPOL! DON'T GO!
M-MY ELIZA..
POISON! BOSS...YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS THE WHOLE TIME?!
WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HIM?!
OL' RAGS THERE ALREADY HAD ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE! -:KOFF:-
-:KOFF:- MORSE, WITH THAT NOSE OF YOURS, YOU SHOULDA KNOWN!
S O B !
KOFF
AT LEAST HE ATE WELL FOR HIS LAST MEAL... -:KOFF:-

VILMA.
THOU CANST HEAR ME, I KNOW.
NOW DOST THOU SEE?!
THIS IS THE TRUE NATURE OF HUMANS!


...A FOOL OUT OF ME...
YOU MADE...




...WE ARE ALL HUMAN, LIKE YOU...
WAS IT ALL A LIE WHEN YOU SAID THAT...


IT'S OUTSID-ERS.
NOT AT ALL.
WHAT I FEAR IS NEITHER VAMPIRES NOR DEMONS.

I HAVE A DUTY TO PROTECT THIS SHELTER FROM MASS-MURDERERS OF WHOM WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT.
BUT YOU'RE DIFFERENT, VILMA.
YOU'RE SMART AND BEAUTI-FUL.
STAY HERE AND BE A MOTHER FOR JOHN! WE NEED YOU!

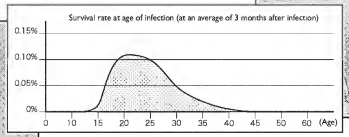
I KNEW THAT IT WOULD COME TO THIS...
KOFF!
VILMA ...

...THAT THEY WOULD USE FOUL MEANS TO ENSNARE US.
HUMANS ARE A FLOCK OF SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPARD... AND WE ARE THE WOLVES THAT HUNT THEM...
THIS IS OUR GOD-GIVEN DESTINY AND IT WILL NEVER CHANGE!
IF YOU KNEW IT WAS A TRAP, THEN WHY...
WHY COME WITH ME?
VILMA, THOU ART A KIND WOMAN.
I DID NOT WISH TO SEE THEE BETRAYED AND HURT...
...BUT THOU WOULDST NEVER ACCEPT HOW EVIL HUMANS COULD BE UNLESS I DID THIS.

US OR...
...THE HUMANS ?
THOU SHALT CHOOSE!

ALTERED SHOCK

The V-virus can only be transmitted through bodily fluids. Once infected, the body goes into a reaction called "Altered Shock." Symptoms—including a drop in blood pressure, agonizing pain, hallucinations, stupor, convulsions, and muscle rigidity—continue for about 70 hours. Most die. Survival rates are thought to be correlated to levels of growth hormones and sex hormones.



The temperature at the onset of symptoms is also thought to have a significant impact. Some data imply that survival rates decrease when the temperature goes above 25°C—perhaps explaining why there are few Type-V mutants in the tropics.

THREE MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

SUICIDE

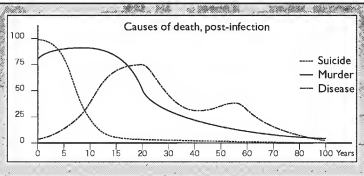
Getting over Altered Shock doesn't mean the coast is clear. The victim then faces psychological anguish. Carnivorous aggression (the so-called "thirst for blood") increases. If victims did not wish to be infected, they may try to suppress the thirst for moral or religious reasons, and often cannot accept the change that has come over them. The suicide rate within ten years of infection may be as high as 60%. Only someone who thinks nothing of taking a life will easily adapt to being a Type-V mutant.

MURDER

If a Type-V mutant finds too much pleasure in killing, and The Society is unable to shelter or confine him, a reckless escalation of crimes may ensue, leading to retaliation or police action. However, once the Type-V gains the skill and experience to attack proficiently (or a desire not to rock the boat), only conflict within the Cognate itself leads to such a ruderous end.

DISEASE

Type-V mutants are exceptionally resilient against injury, but are surprisingly prone to disease, especially cancer. This is likely related to the mechanism of ageless cell division. The rate of cancer within 50 years of infection is 30 times that of normal. However, the rate drops again 100 years after infection. The Society superstition has it that once one manages to survive 200 years, the likelihood of death is practically zero—except in power struggles with other Cognates.



The above data was gathered by The Society prior to the Catastrophe. The Society had enough clout to have a say in human politics, mainly in Europe. However, the Catastrophe destroyed their organization, along with the rest of civilization.

REVEALED!

VAMPIRES IN THE WORLD OF BATTLE ANGEL ALITA

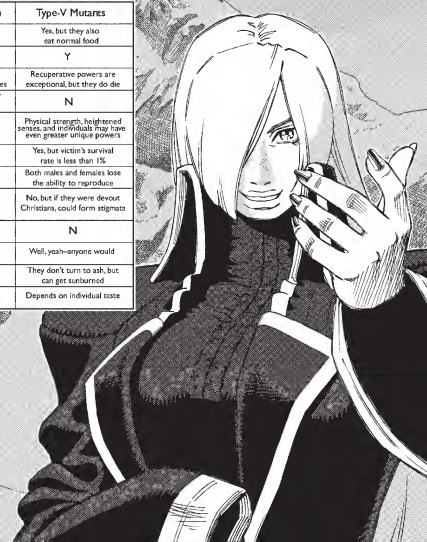
The supernatural creatures known as vampires have been feared throughout history. Late 20th century advances in biology showed that they are indeed formerly human, mutated via infection with the retrovirus known as the "V-virus." Carriers of the V-virus are called "Type-V mutants."

HISTORY

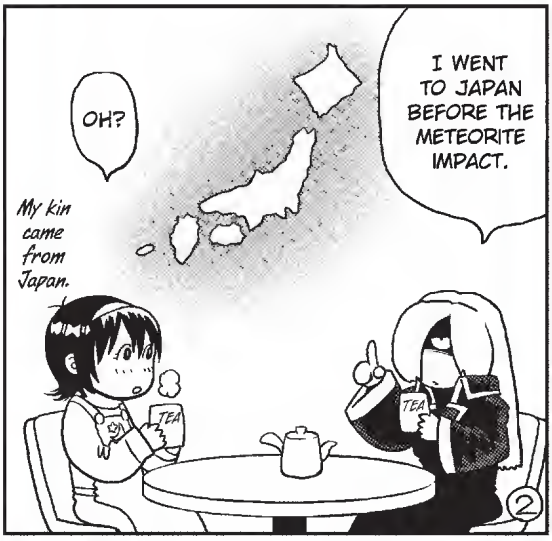
Tired of being oppressed by the Christian community in medieval Europe, Type-V mutant elders assembled in the 17th century to found a secret organization known only as "The Society." Type-V mutants across the globe were united, taught to refrain from excessive violence, and integrated with humans into a system of coexistence.

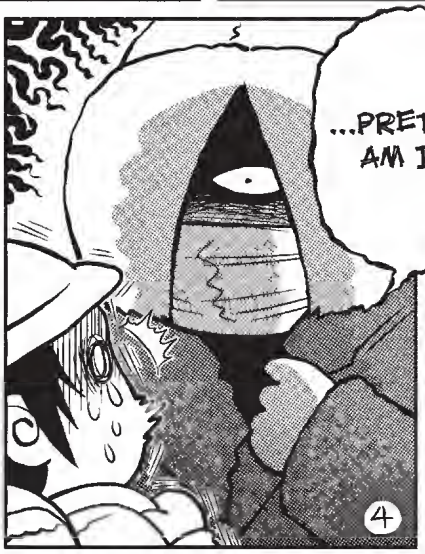
The Society considers the word "vampire" a derogatory term, and prefers to refer to themselves as "The Cognate."

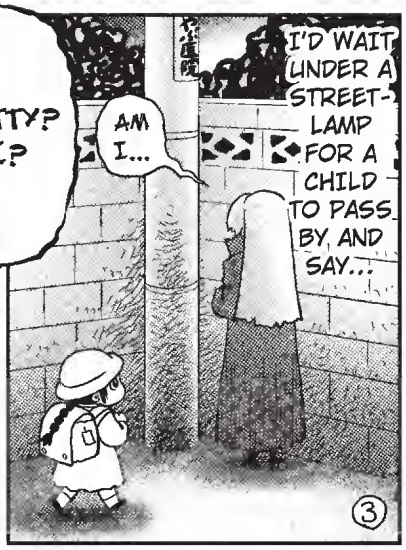
	Vampires (in folklore)	Type-V Mutants
Suck Human Blood	Y	Yes, but they also eat normal food
Eternal Youth	Y	Y
Immortal	They can only be killed by exploiting their weaknesses	Recuperative powers are exceptional, but they do die
Paranormal Abilities	Can transform into bats or puffs of smoke, etc.	N
Special Abilities	Y	Physical strength, heightened senses, and individuals may have even greater unique powers
Pass on vampirism through bites	Y	Yes, but victim's survival rate is less than 1%
Reproductive capacity	?	Both males and females lose the ability to reproduce
Are warded off by a cross	Y	No, but if they were devout Christians, could form stigmata
Have no reflection in reflective surfaces	Y	N
Will die with a stake through the heart	Y	Well, yeah–anyone would
Reduced to ash by sunlight	Y	They don't turn to ash, but can get sunburned
Hate Garlic	Y	Depends on individual taste

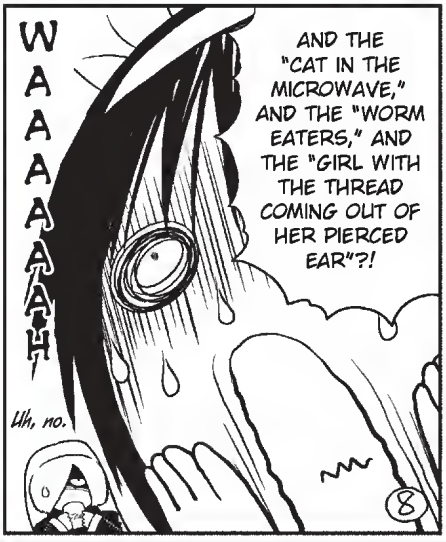


THE LOCAL JAPANESE VARIETY... URBAN LEGENDS!







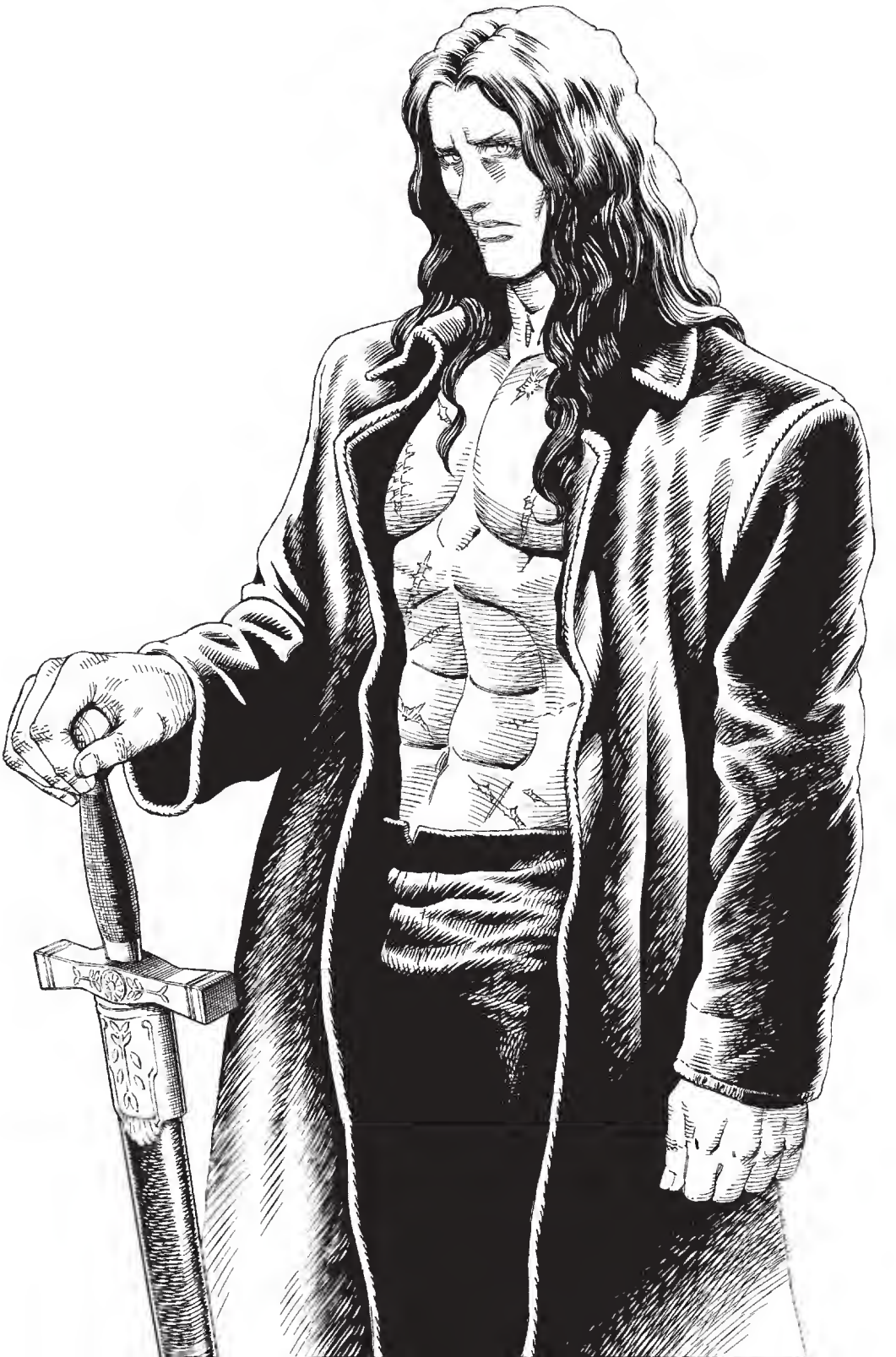


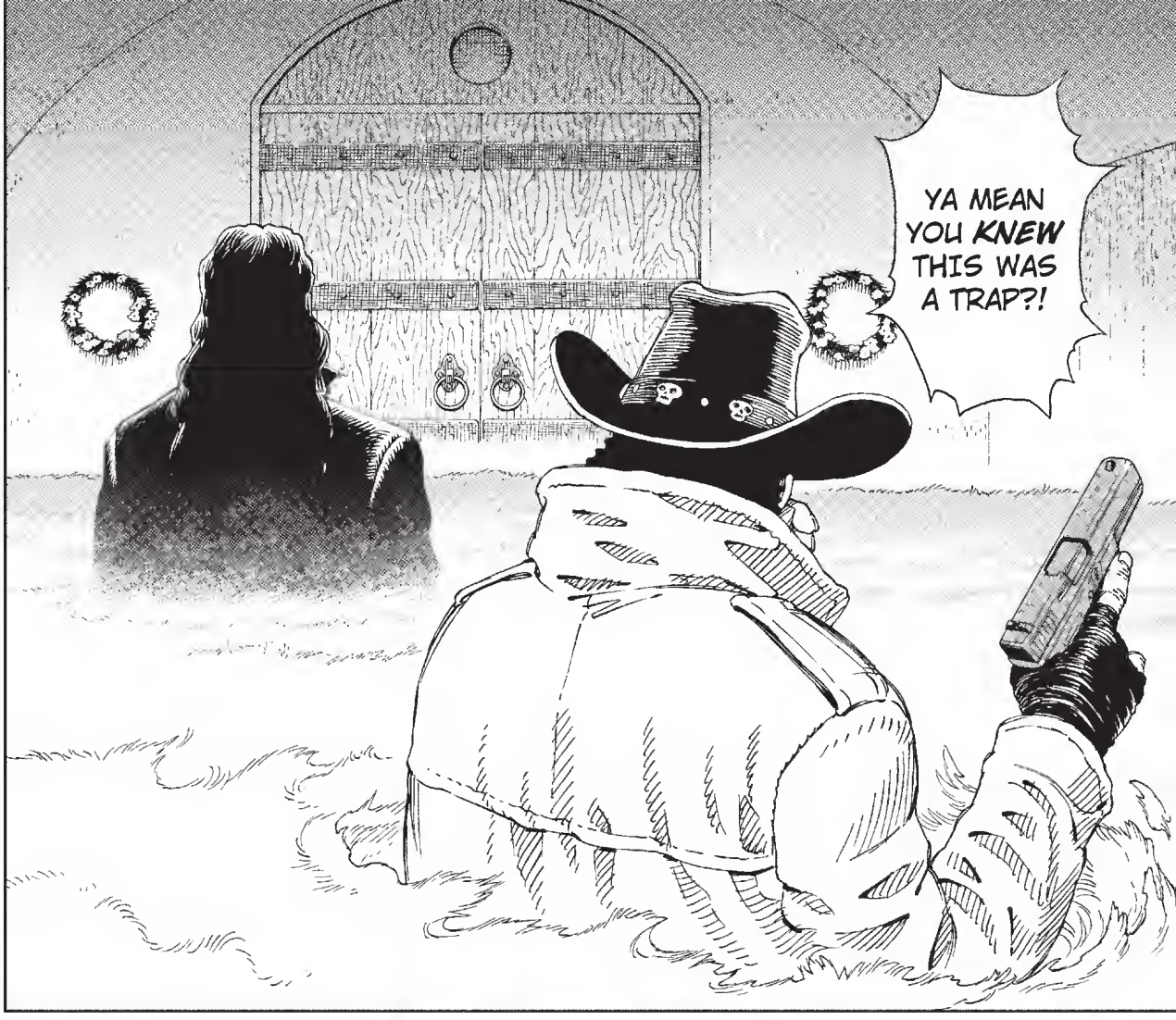
NO GHOST STORIES, NO LIFE!

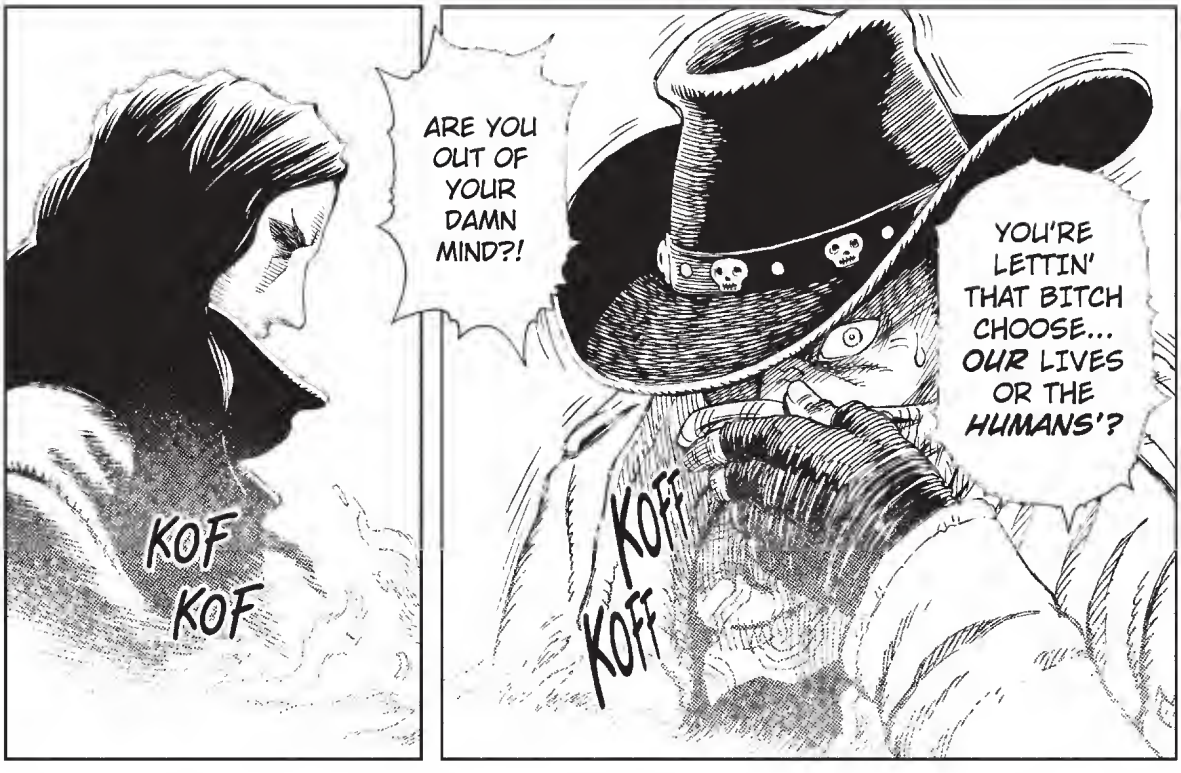
Battle Angel ALITA™ Last Order™

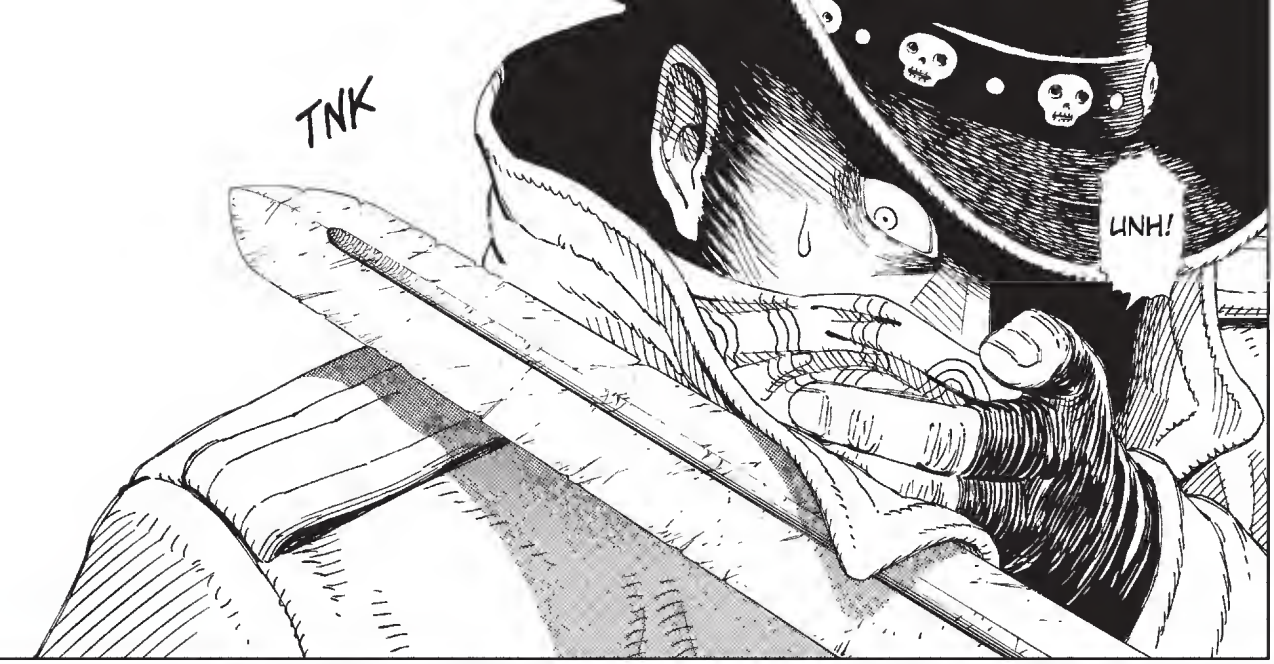
Last Order

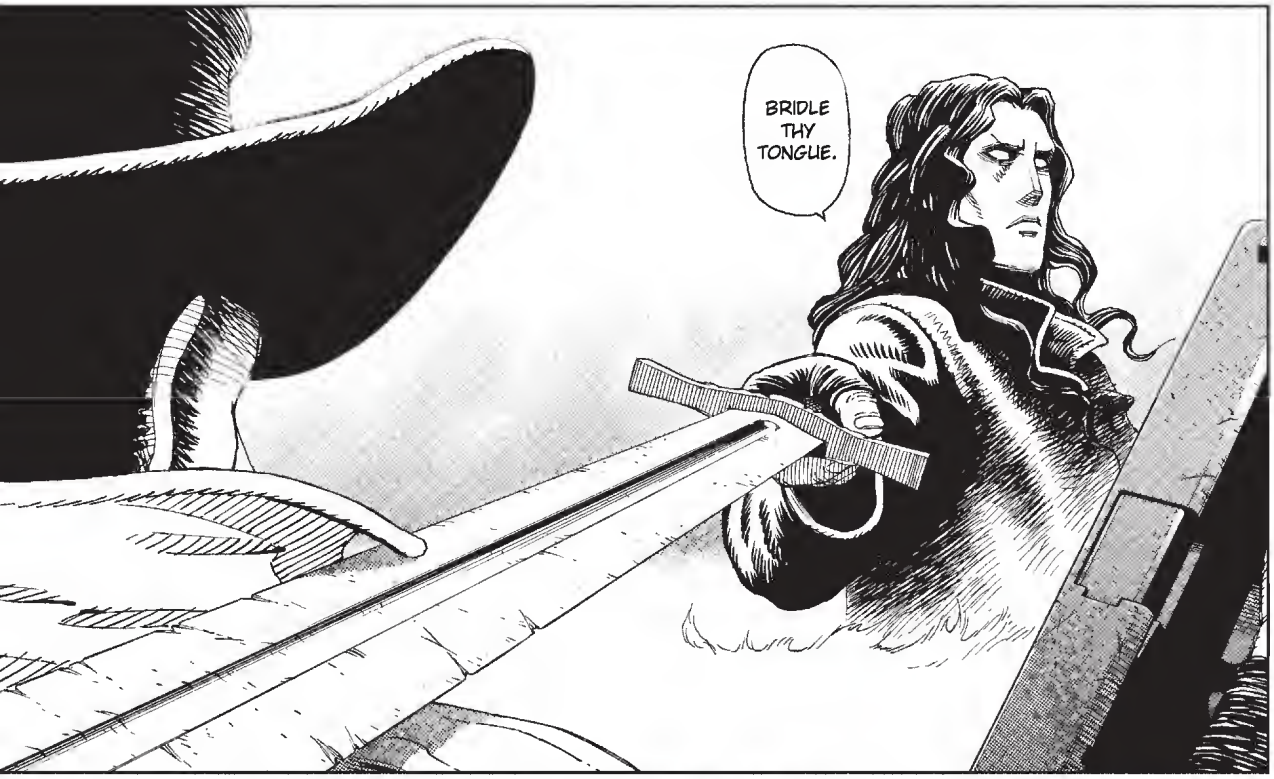
PHASE 47: Whoever It May Be

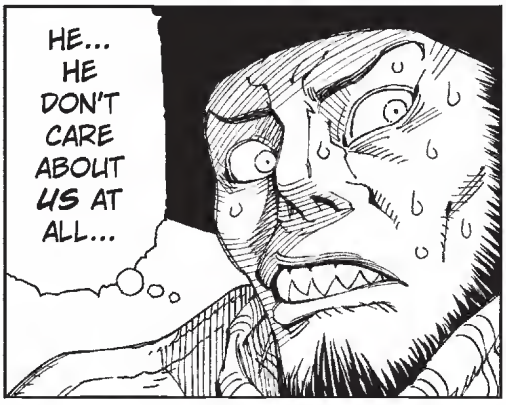



YA MEAN YOU KNEW THIS WAS A TRAP?!


ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR DAMN MIND?!
YOU'RE LETTIN' THAT BITCH CHOOSE... OUR LIVES OR THE HUMANS'?
KOFF KOFF
KOFF KOFF

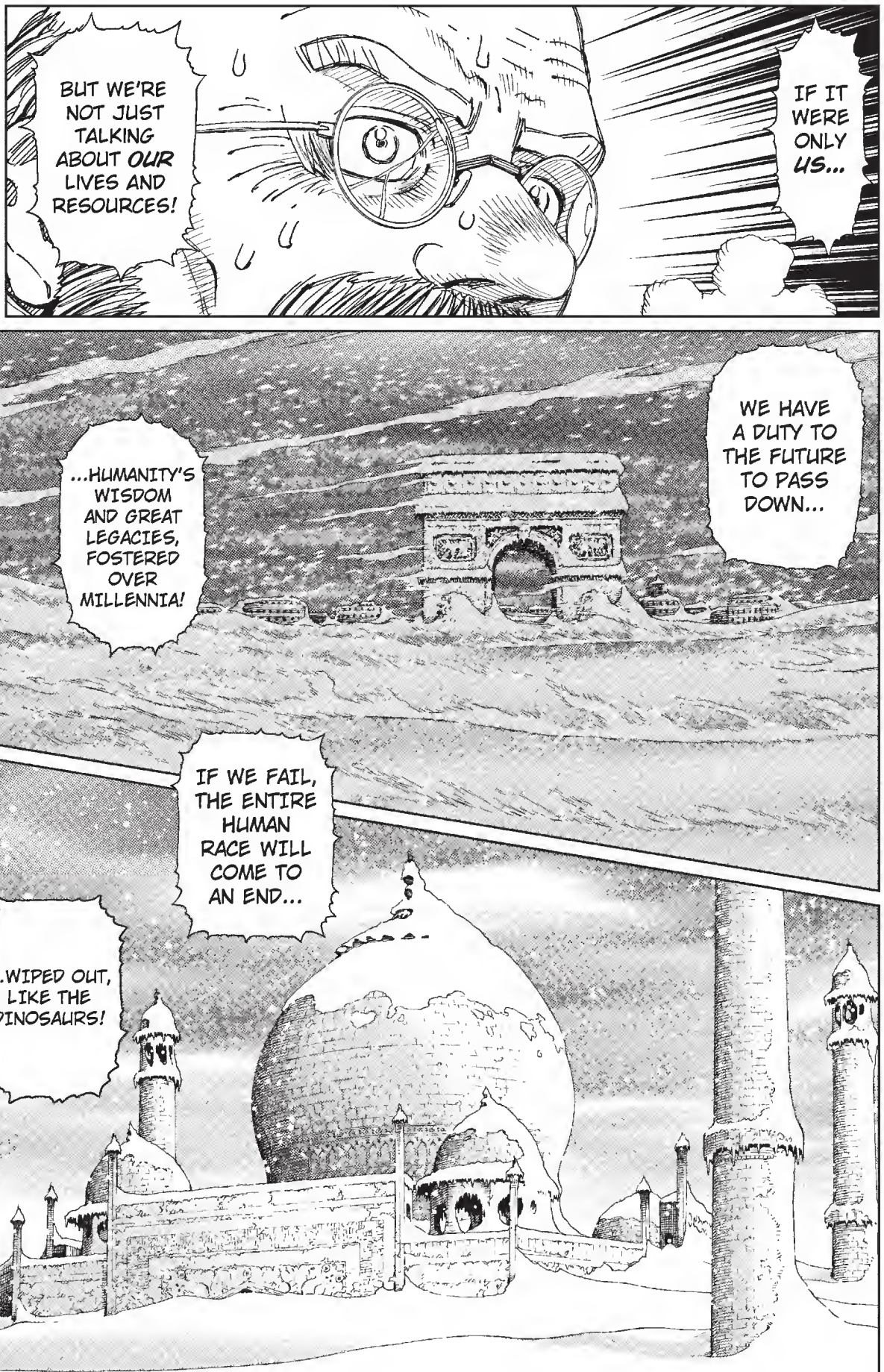

TNK
UNH!


BRIDLE THY TONGUE.

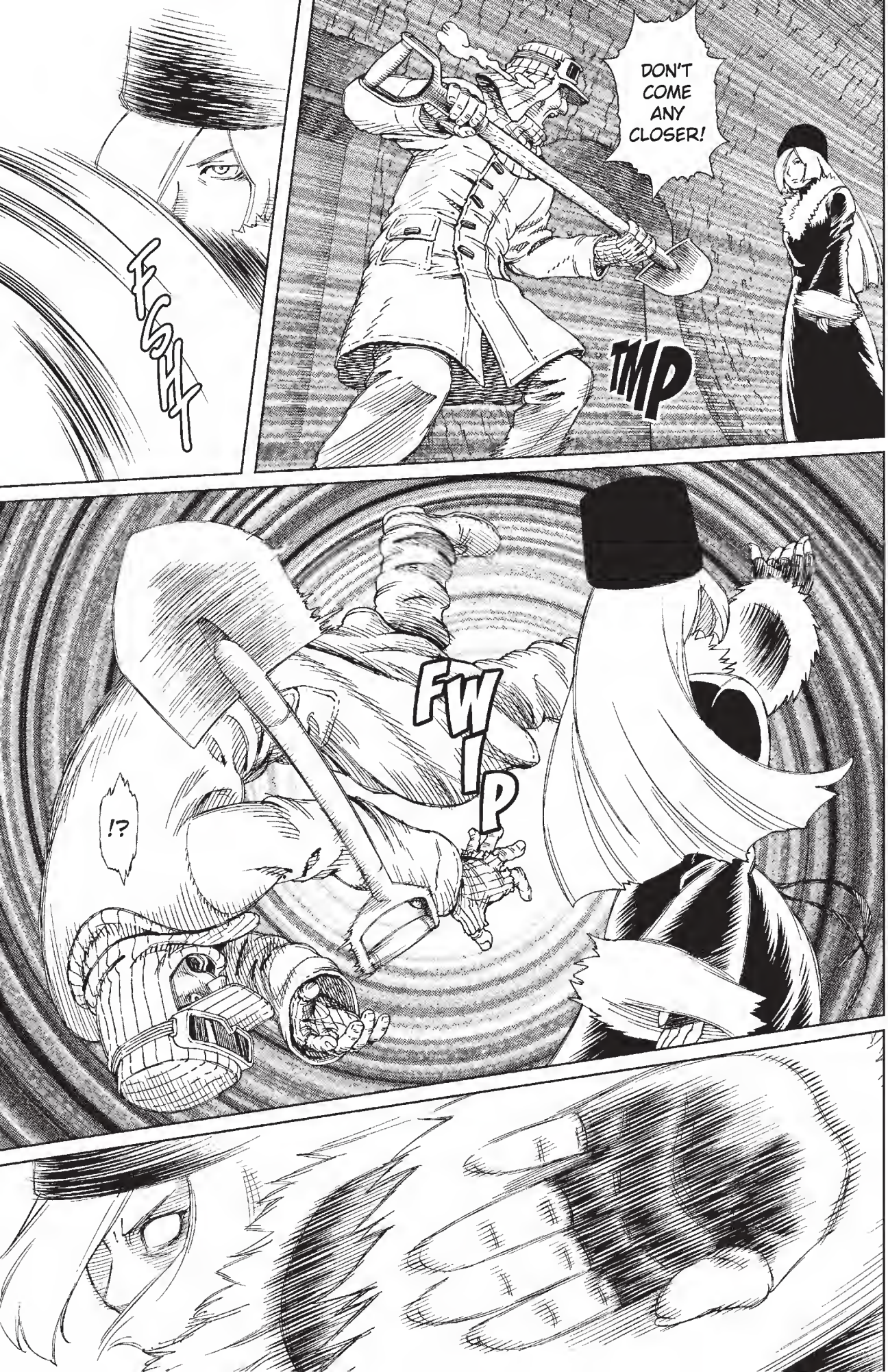

HE... HE DON'T CARE ABOUT US AT ALL...

I WILL KILL ANYONE WHO INSULTS MY WIFE... WHOEVER IT MAY BE!

PLEASE, VILMA! LISTEN TO ME! I BEG YOU!
AND YOU KNOW...
...HOW IMPORTANT THAT IS!
WE MAY BE THE LAST PEOPLE ON EARTH THAT CAN PRESERVE OUR CIVILIZATION!


BUT WE'RE NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT *OUR* LIVES AND RESOURCES!
IF IT WERE ONLY *US*...
...HUMANITY'S WISDOM AND GREAT LEGACIES, FOSTERED OVER MILLENNIA!
WE HAVE A DUTY TO THE FUTURE TO PASS DOWN...
IF WE FAIL, THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE WILL COME TO AN END...
...WIPED OUT, LIKE THE DINOSAURS!

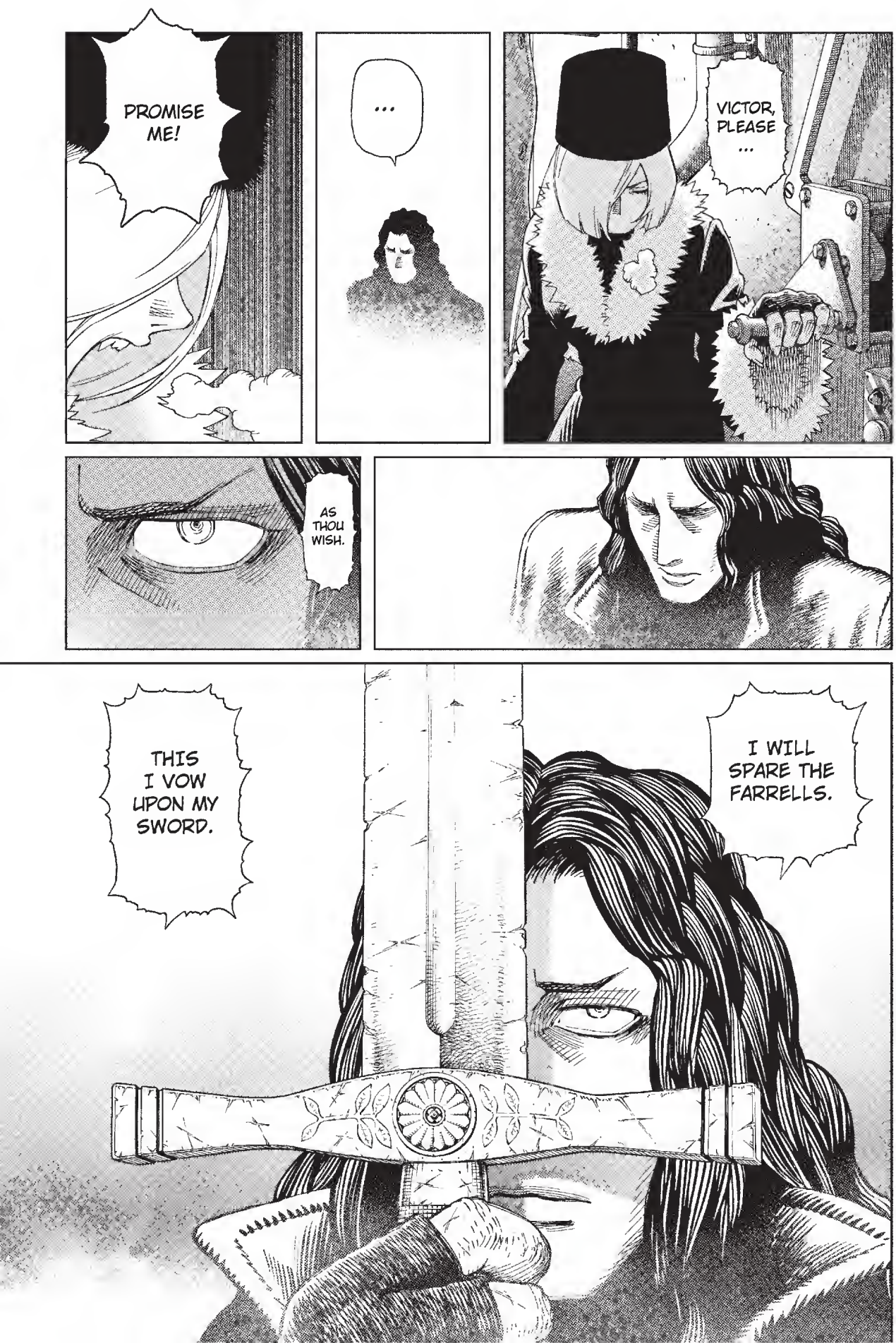
All I could feel was pure rage at the violation of my trust, a rage which coursed through my veins.
The noble cause he expounded could in no way reach my heart at that moment.
...THE ONES WHO SAVED MY LIFE.
YOU WILL SPARE JOHN AND COLIN...
TMP
TMP
VICTOR, SWEAR TO ME...
VILMA...


DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
TMP
FSHT
FWIP
!?

BAM
WAM
SKRKK
SHA

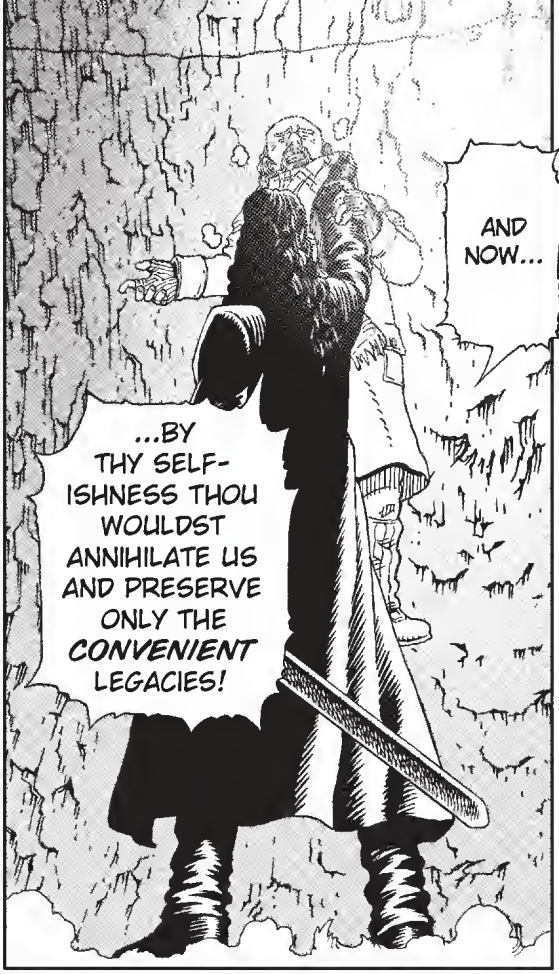
...
SPLUT
STOP IT, VIL—
KA CHAK
...MA...

AGGH!
KRAKKRIK
TWKSH
WHUD
GAH... ACK?!
TNK


PROMISE ME!
...
VICTOR, PLEASE ...
AS THOU WISH.
I WILL SPARE THE FARRELLS.
THIS I VOW UPON MY SWORD.

RMB
RMB
KANG
BAM!
AH!
KREEEK
WHOOM

"HUMANITY'S WISDOM AND ITS GREAT LEGACIES" ...?


AND NOW...
...BY THY SELF-ISHNESS THOU WOULDST ANNIHILATE US AND PRESERVE ONLY THE *CONVENIENT* LEGACIES!

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
WE, THE COGNATE, ARE LIVING WITNESSES TO HISTORY THOU ONLY KNOW THROUGH BOOKS!
...THE SINS OF MAN AND HIS DARK HISTORY!

PLP

!

MONSTER!
P-TUI

B-BUT YOU'LL NEVER BREAK MY SPIRIT... NOT BY FORCE!
GO AHEAD! GO ON... KILL ME.
TEARING THEE LIMB FROM LIMB WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH...
VILE MAN...
...THOU HAST ENSNARED US AND BETRAYED THE TRUST OF MY WIFE.
THUS... THE *OTHERS* SHALL PAY THE PRICE!
BUT I AM A KNIGHT— UNLIKE *THEE*—AND I KEEP MY VOWS.

KILL
THEM
ALL!

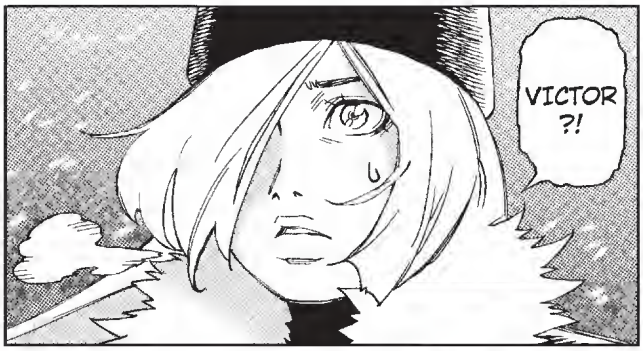
DO NOT SPARE A SOUL! NOT ONE...
...BE IT WOMAN, CHILD, OR ANIMAL!
BURN IT TO THE GROUND! DESTROY THIS PLACE SO NO HUMAN SHALL LIVE HERE AGAIN!
WAP
HEH, HEH.
JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITIN' FOR!
A REQUIEM FOR ZAPOL!

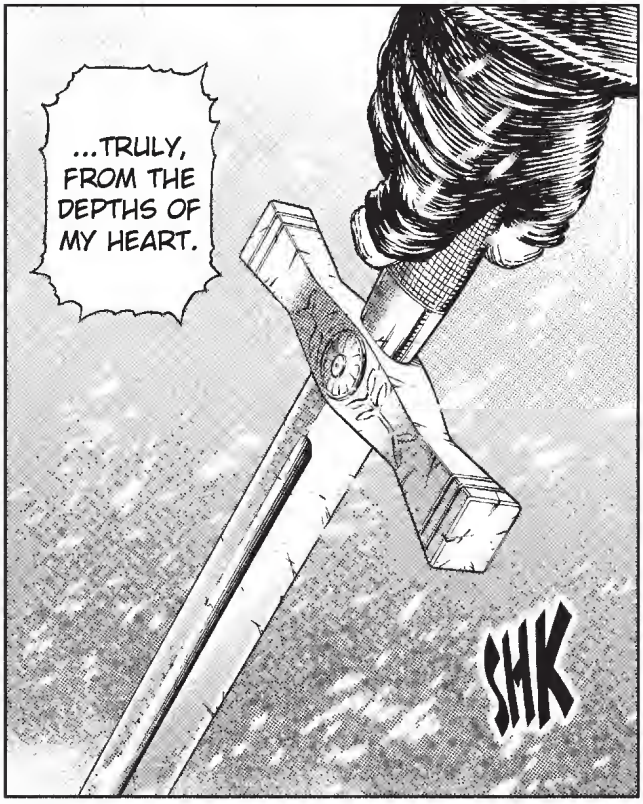
NO! STOP!
YOU FIENDS!
GO TO HELL!
SK SK
THIS WAY, BOY.
AH...

GRAUGH!
HA, HA, HA!
AAAH!
EEK!

WOOM
BOOM
BAM
SHAOOOO

SHKKSH
OUR CIVILIZA-TION...
OUR... OUR SHELTER...
DAD!
BOY...
SHK

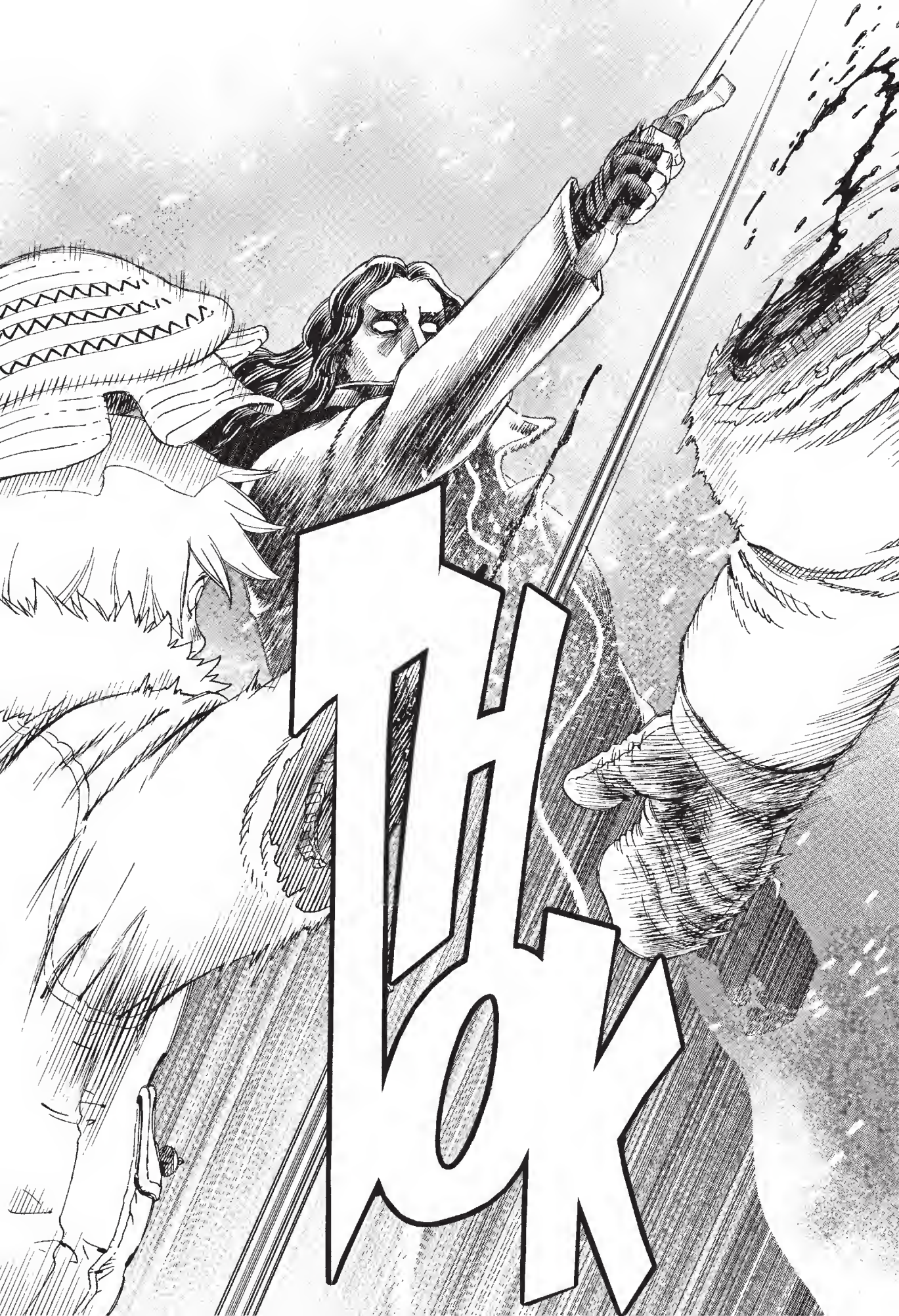

VICTOR ?!


...TRULY, FROM THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART.
SHK

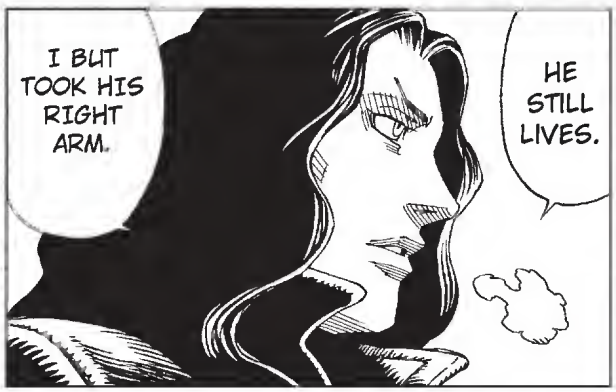
SHK

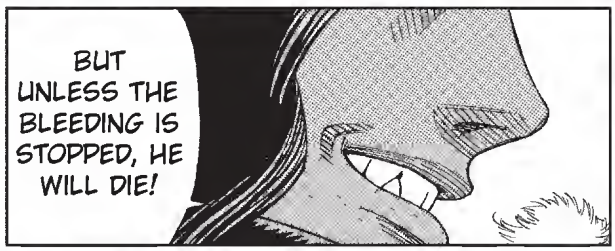
I THANK THEE FOR SAVING MY BELOVED WIFE...
SHK

...AND ULTIMATELY BROUGHT HER GRIEF. DOST THOU UNDERSTAND?
THINE INNOCENCE BEWITCHED HER...
A THOUSAND DEATHS!
AND SO IT IS...
...THAT THINE INNOCENCE IS DESERV-ING OF...


ドサ

AAAAAH!


I BUT TOOK HIS RIGHT ARM.
HE STILL LIVES.

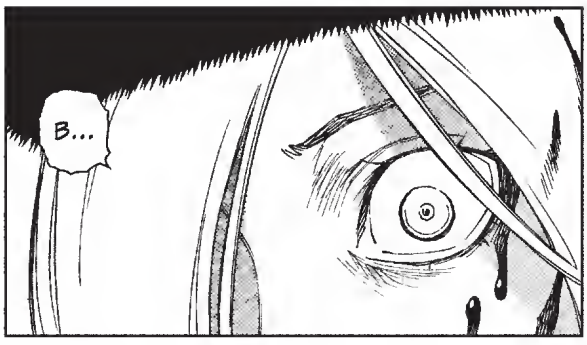

BUT UNLESS THE BLEEDING IS STOPPED, HE WILL DIE!

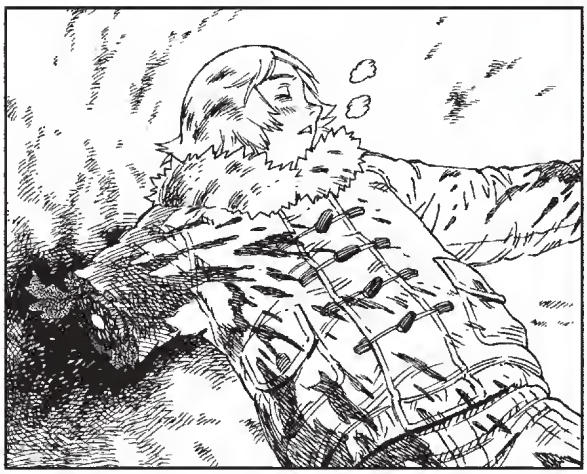
WHY?!
YOU SAID YOU'D SAVE JOHN...

RRIP
SKRK

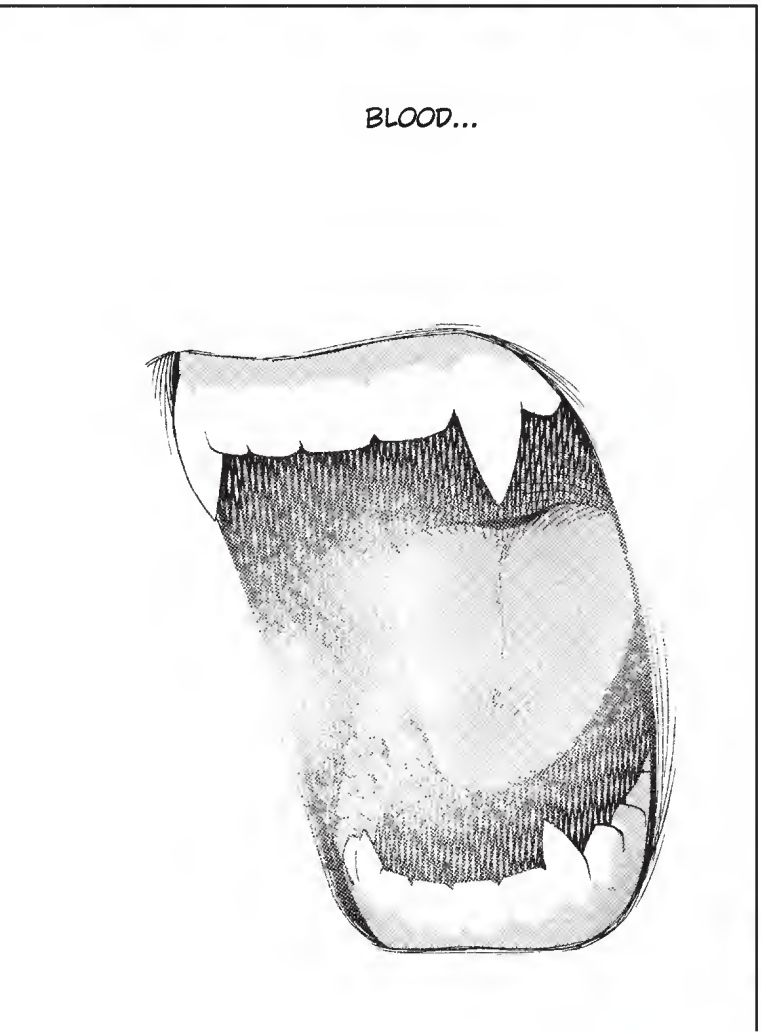
AAH!
JOHN!

PLP
AAAGH!
AH.
AH.
DO NOT RESTRAIN THYSELF, MY LOVE.
hff
uff
uff

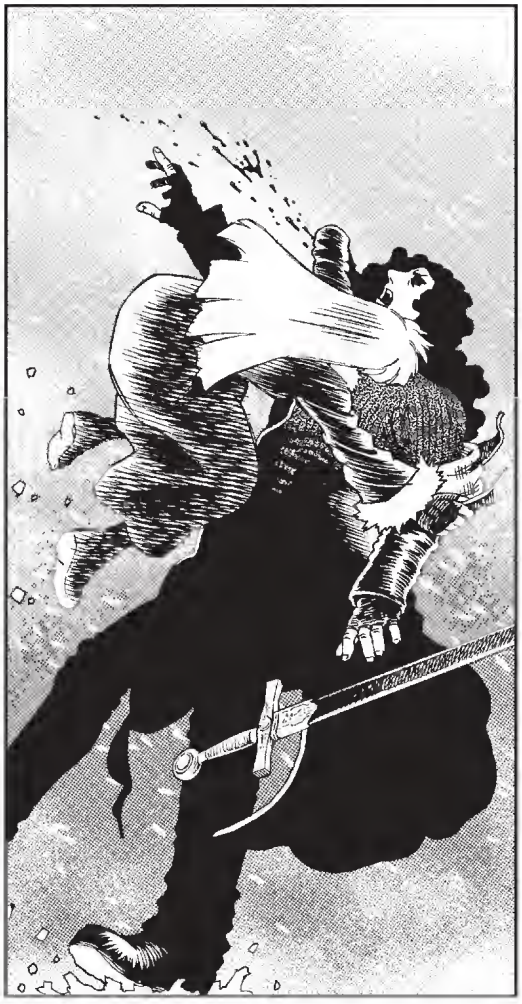

B...



THE BLOOD OF THY DEAR BOY...
HOW SWEET THE TASTE MUST BE!

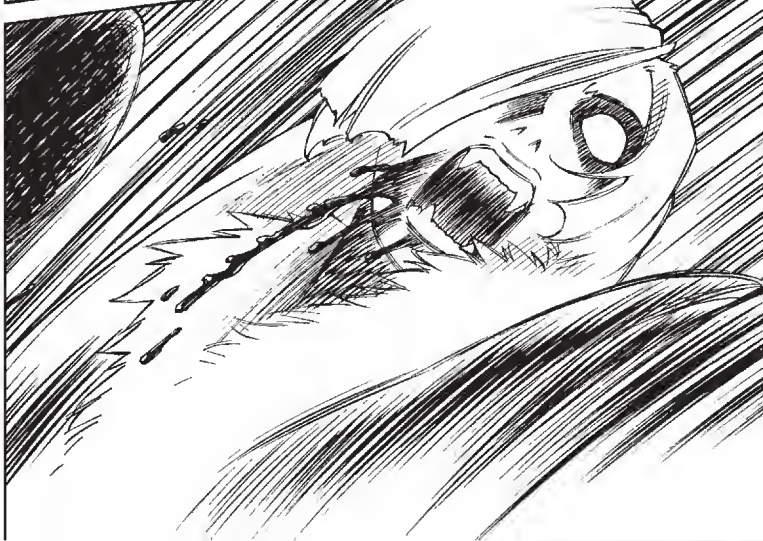

BLOOD...

BL...

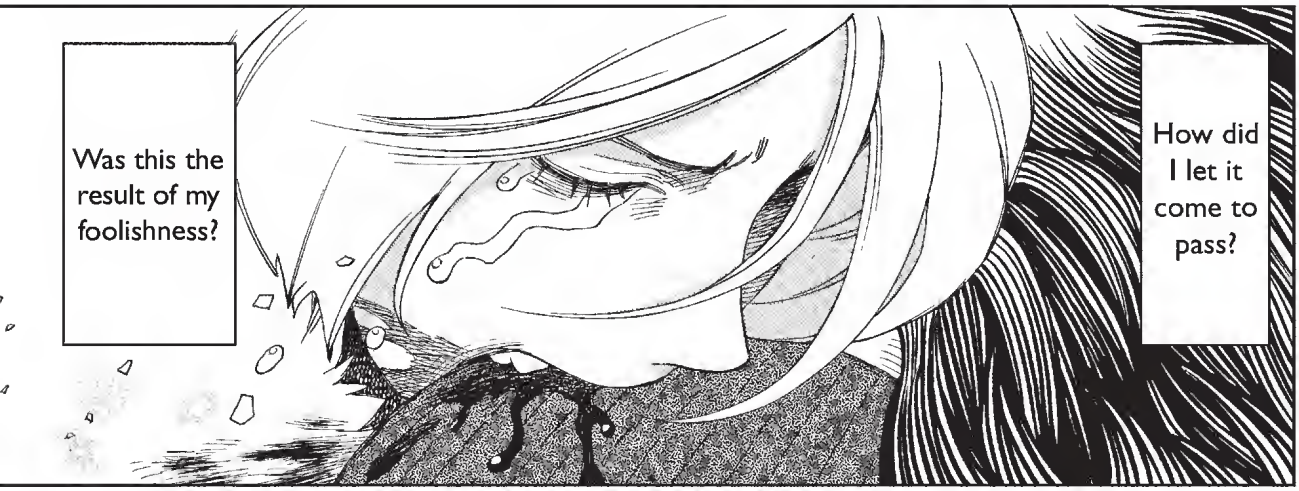


WHY?!
STOP IT!
NO!

WHAT?!

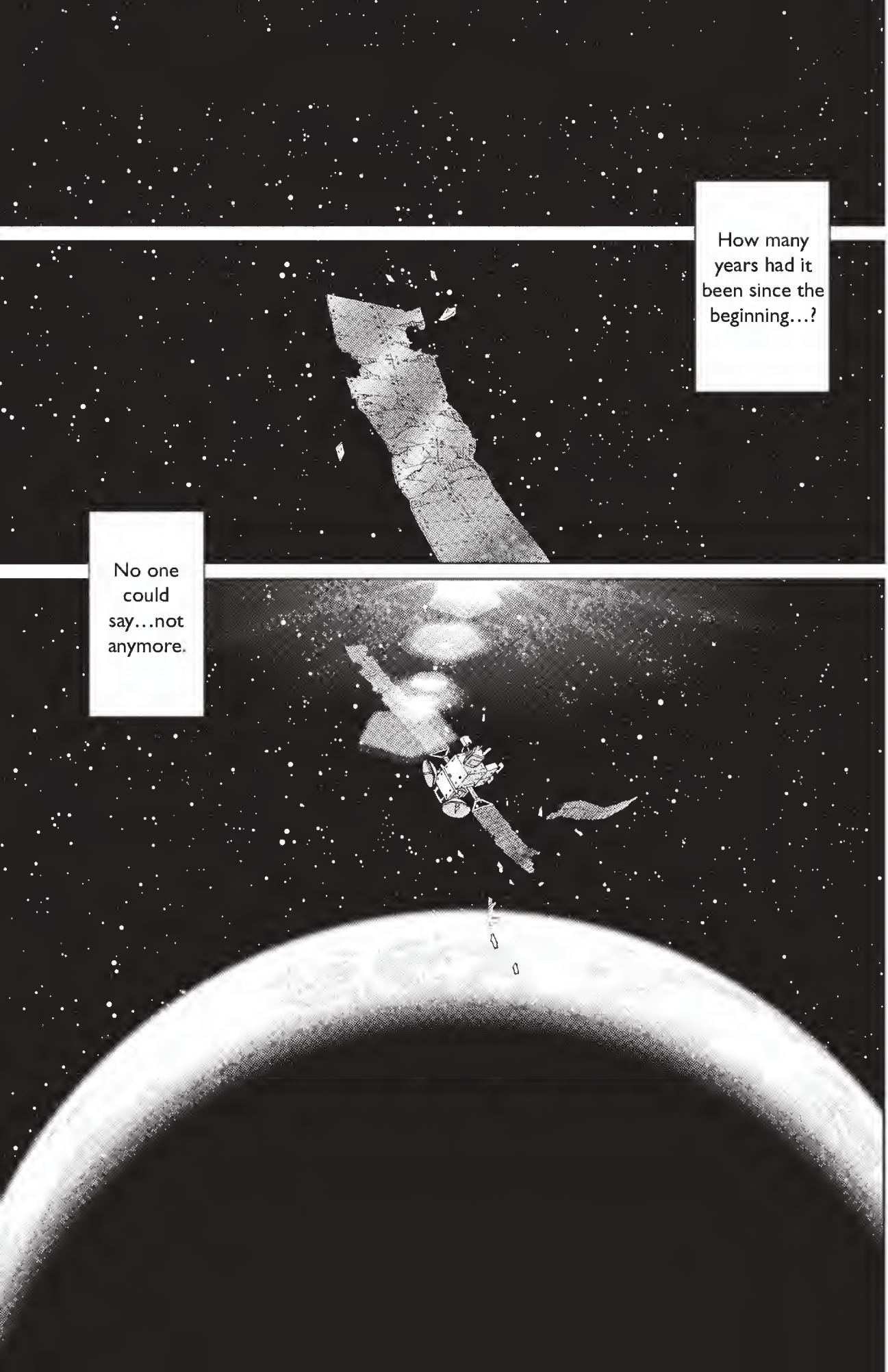


THIS... THIS IS GOOD...
AH.


Was this the result of my foolishness?
How did I let it come to pass?

My tears froze as they fell, shattering in the wind, and mingling with the snow...
I would never hear John play the guitar again.
AHH...
GOOD...

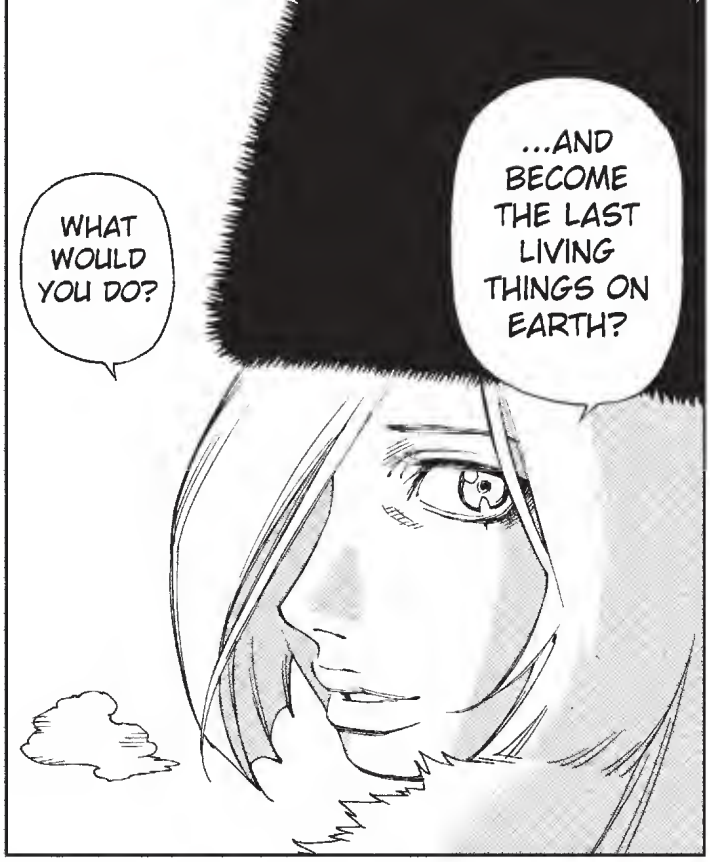
SHAA
Ooo
Thus the Farrell Shelter was destroyed.


How many years had it been since the beginning...?
No one could say...not anymore.

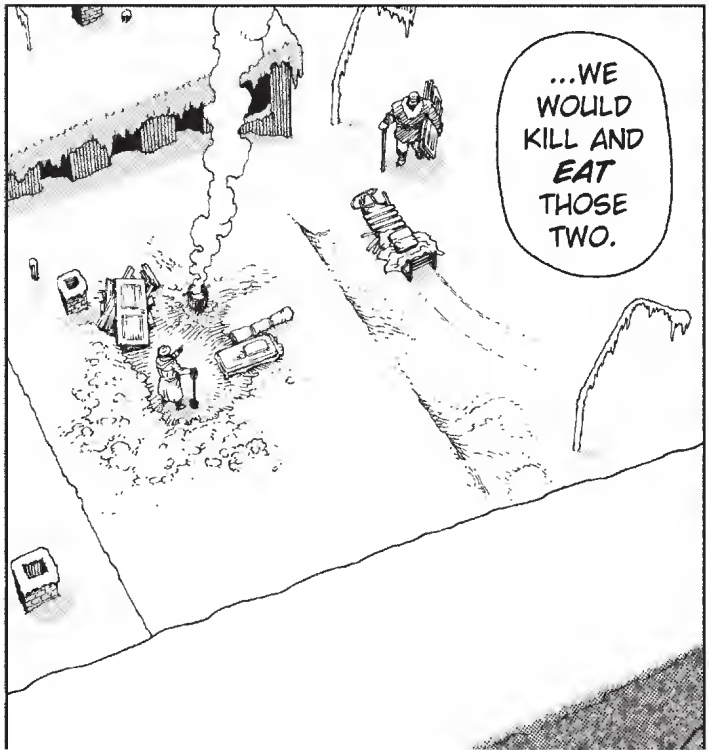
PHASE 48: Sweet Dreams of the End

Snow and ice without end…

…eternal winter. Fewer and fewer living creatures…

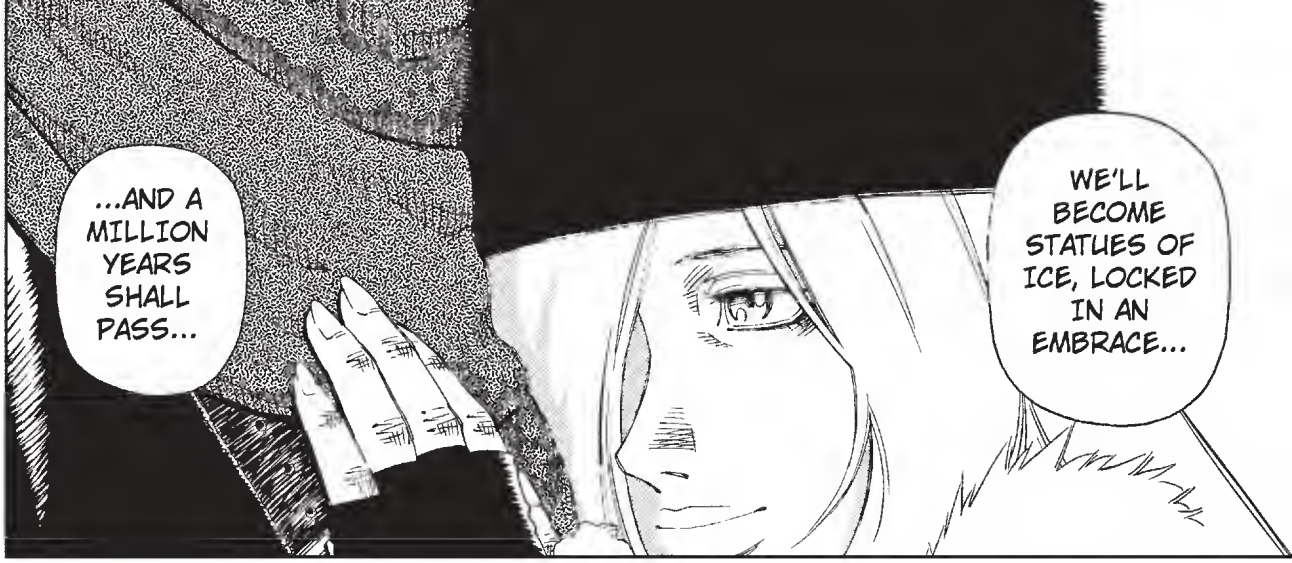

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
...AND BECOME THE LAST LIVING THINGS ON EARTH?

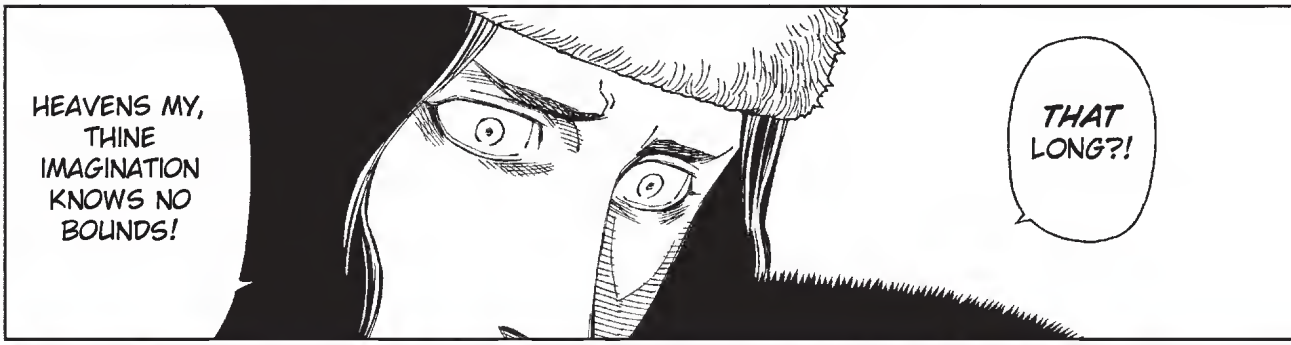
HMM. WELL, FIRST OFF...

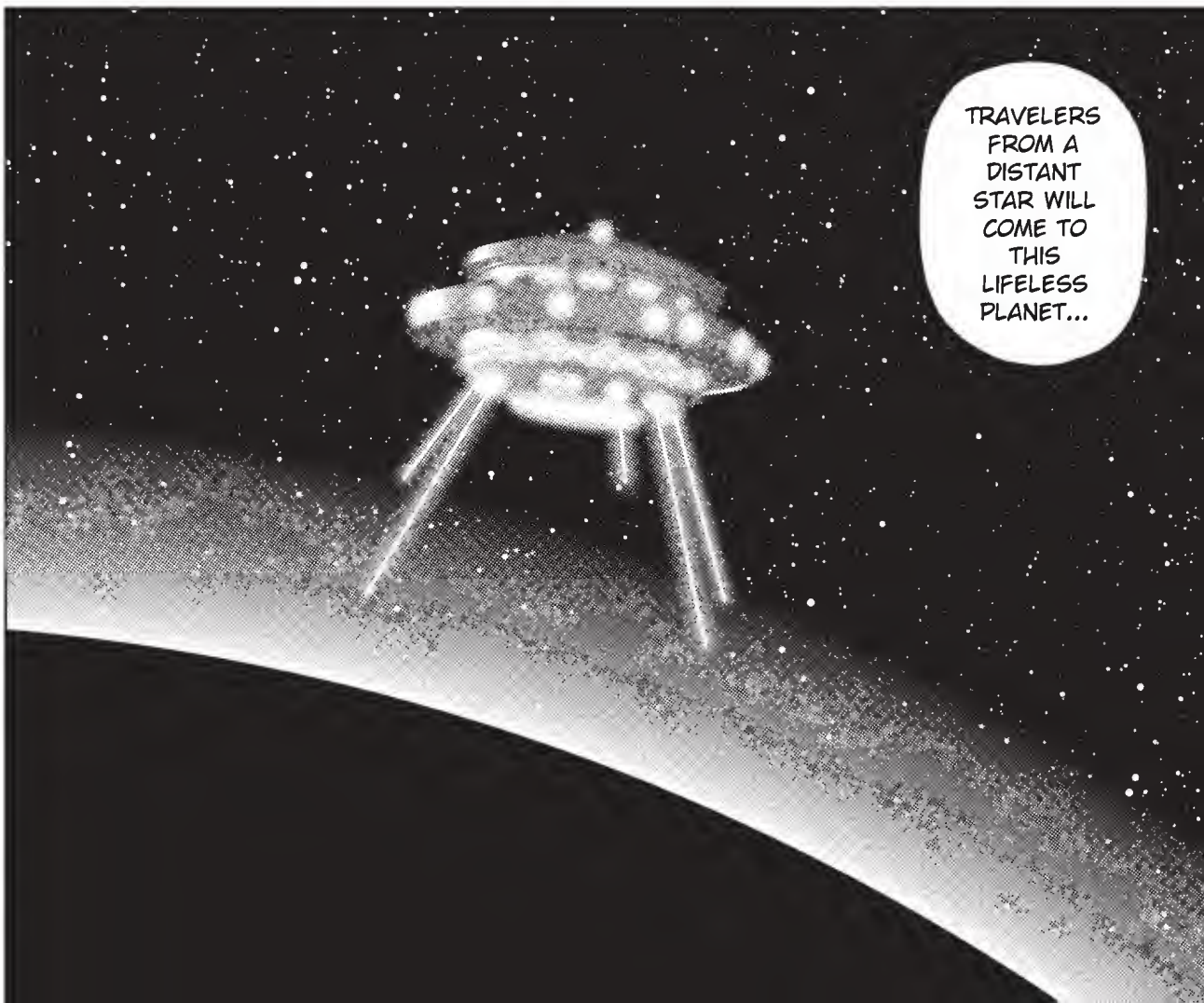

...WE WOULD KILL AND *EAT* THOSE TWO.

HEY, VICTOR?
WHAT IF WE KEEP ROAMING THE WORLD LIKE THIS FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS...

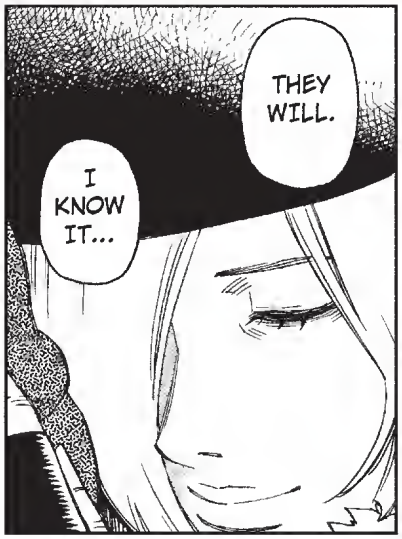
AND AFTER THAT?
HA, HA.
OH, VICTOR... MORSE COULD HEAR YOU!
BOEF
ALONE ON EARTH WITH THEE...
...THIS IS WHEN MY CURSE SHALL BE LIFTED AND MY BLOOD-STAINED HEART SHALL REST.
WE SHALL SLEEP...
...TO-GETHER IN THIS FROZEN WORLD.


...AND A MILLION YEARS SHALL PASS...
WE'LL BECOME STATUES OF ICE, LOCKED IN AN EMBRACE...

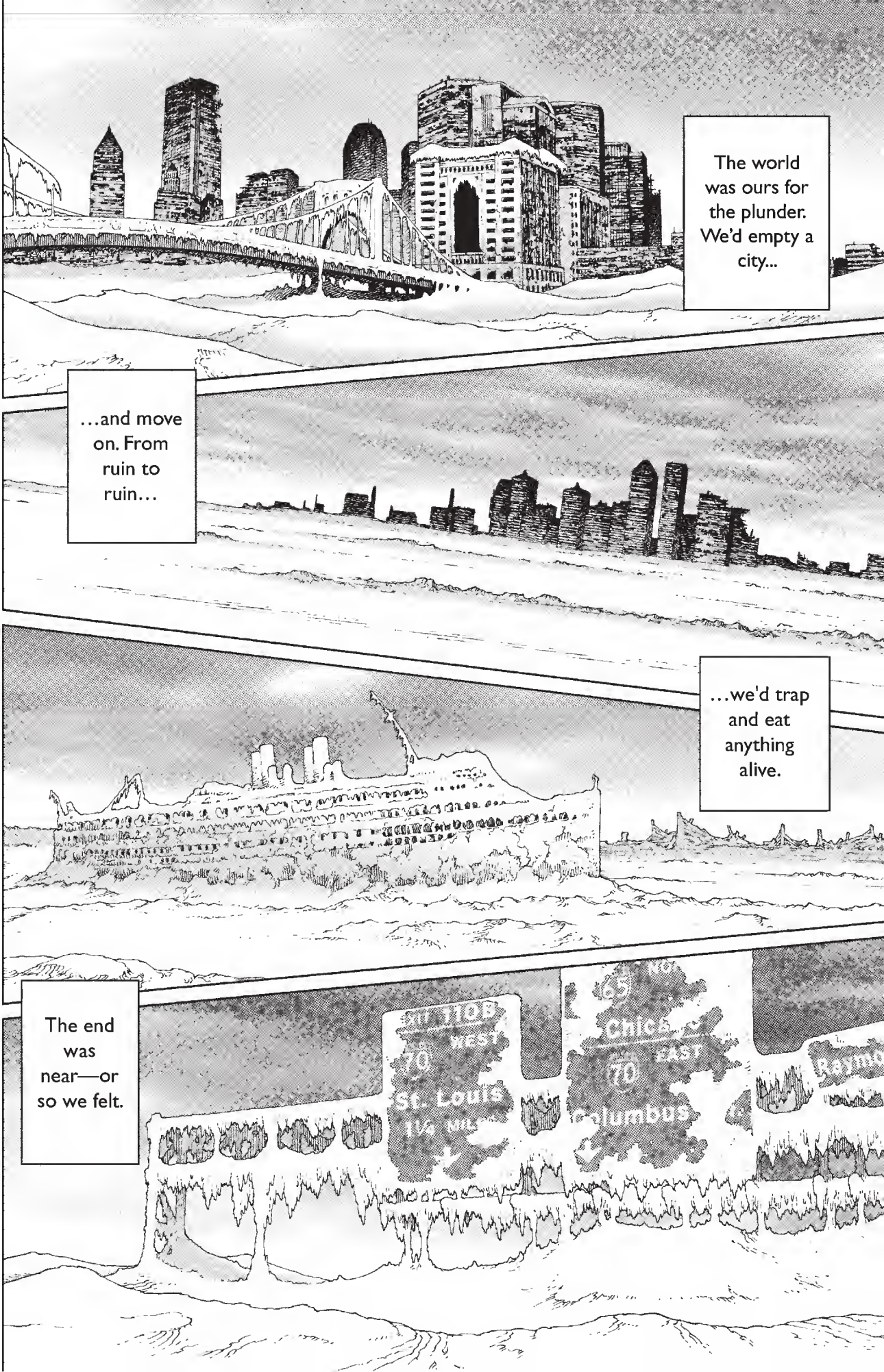

HEAVENS MY, THINE IMAGINATION KNOWS NO BOUNDS!
THAT LONG?!

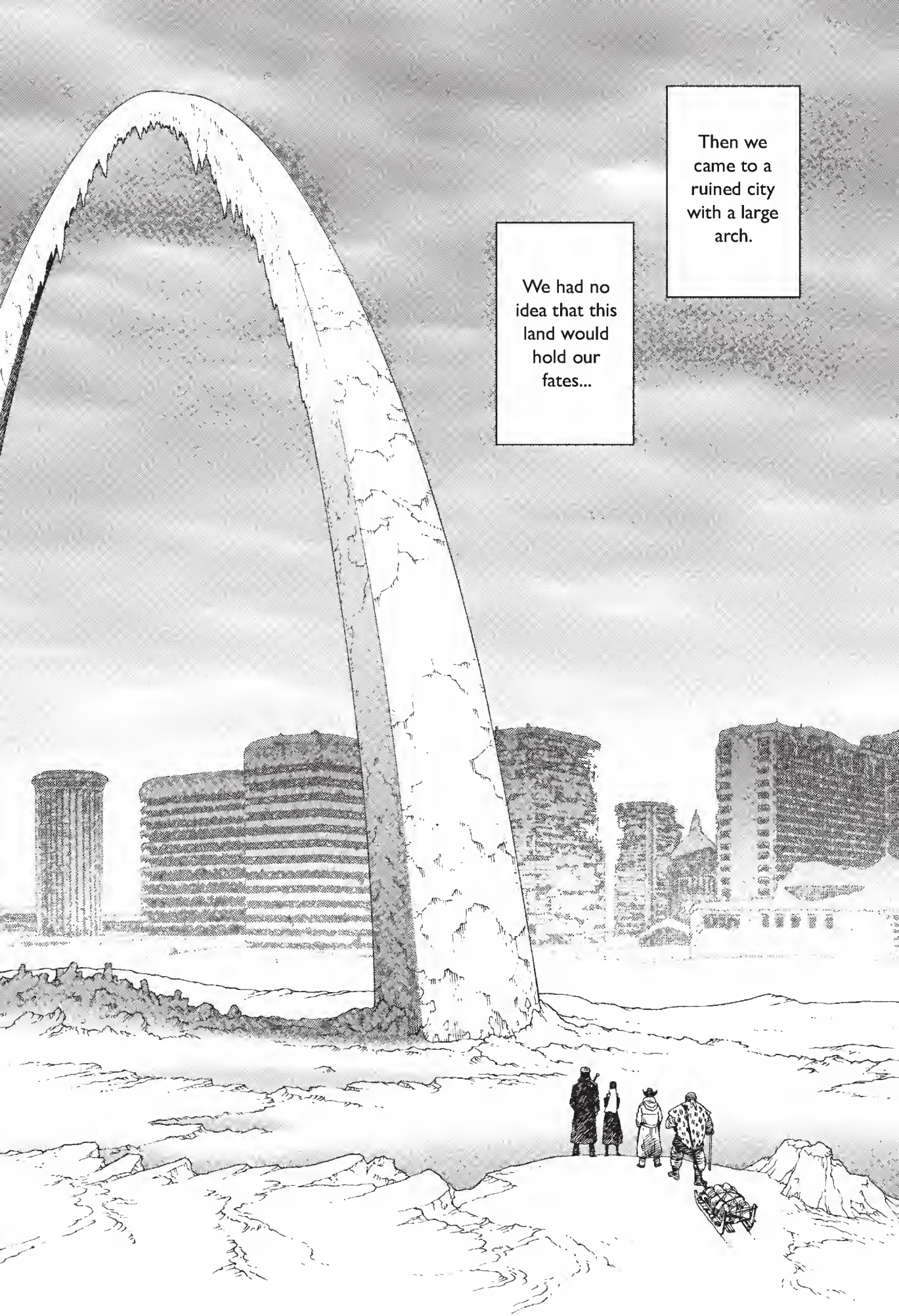

TRAVELERS FROM A DISTANT STAR WILL COME TO THIS LIFELESS PLANET...

...AND FIND OUR FROZEN FIGURES.

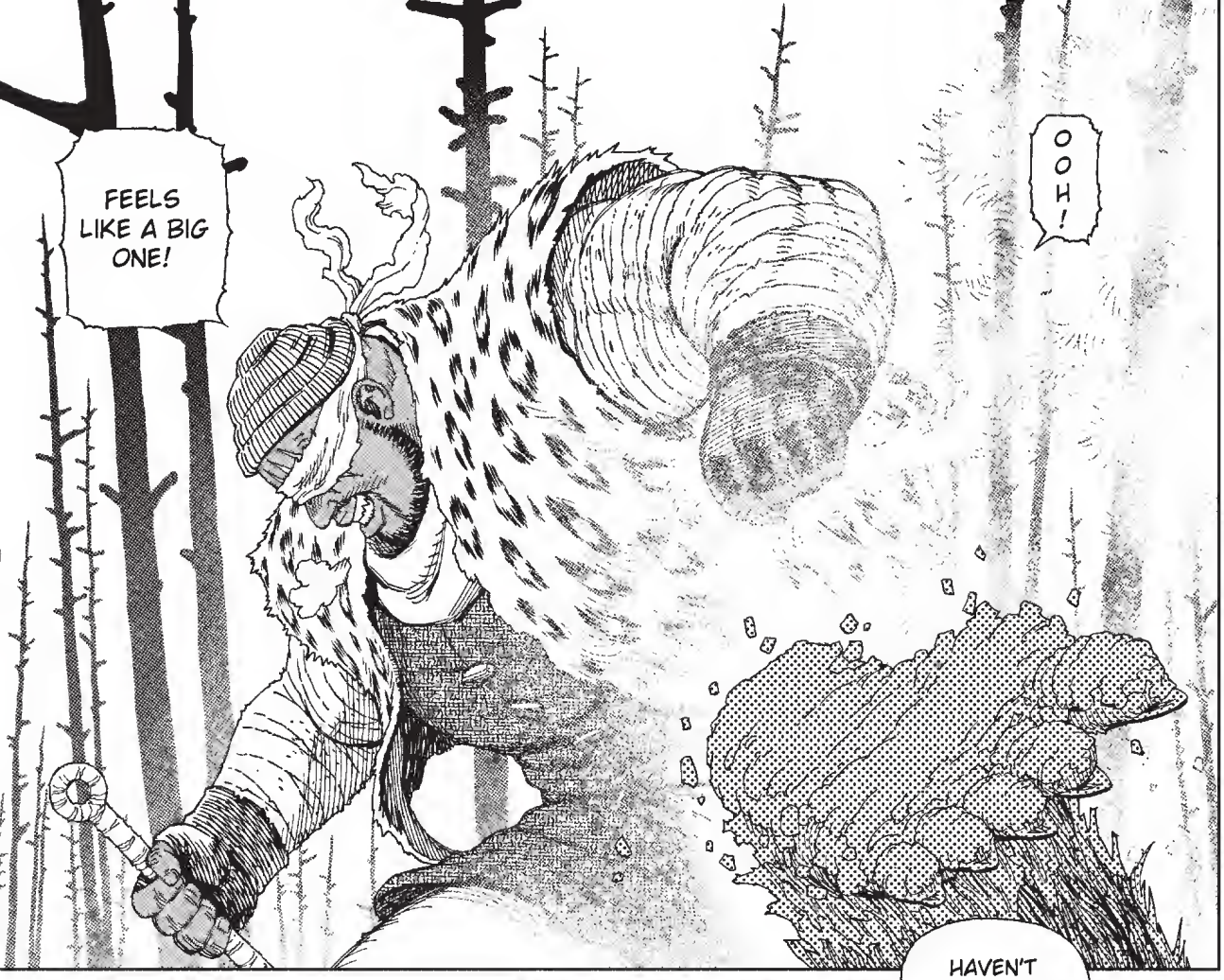

THEY WILL.
I KNOW IT...

...WE HAD LIVED—WE HAD LOVED? WILL THEY, TOO, HAVE SOULS?
WILL THEY KNOW THAT...

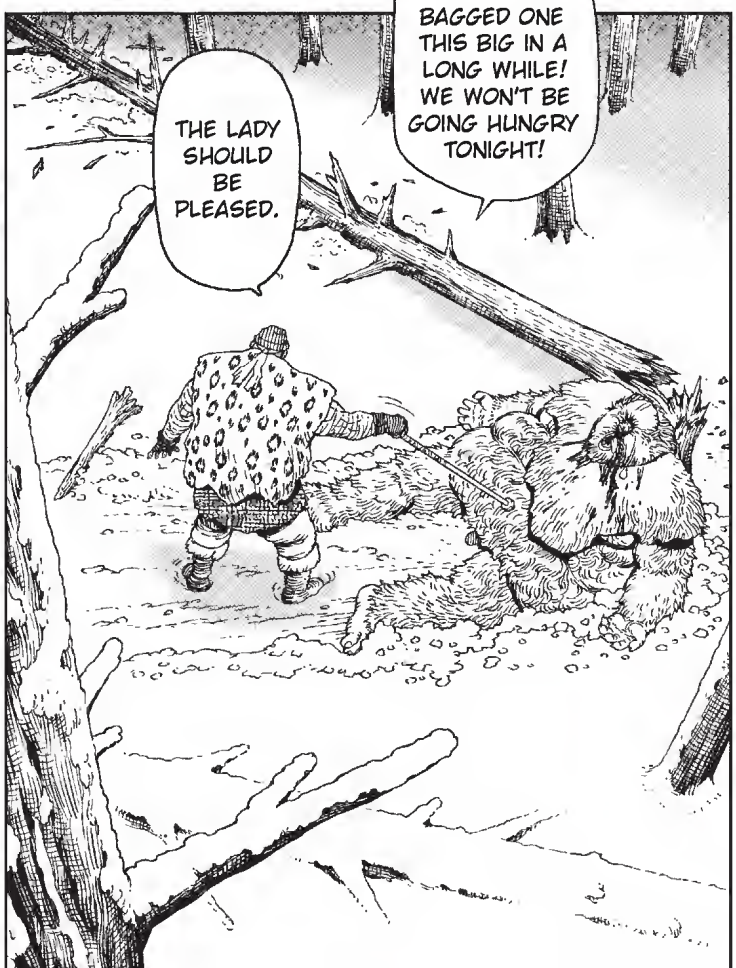

The world was ours for the plunder. We'd empty a city...
...and move on. From ruin to ruin...
...we'd trap and eat anything alive.
The end was near—or so we felt.
70
St. Louis
70
Columbus

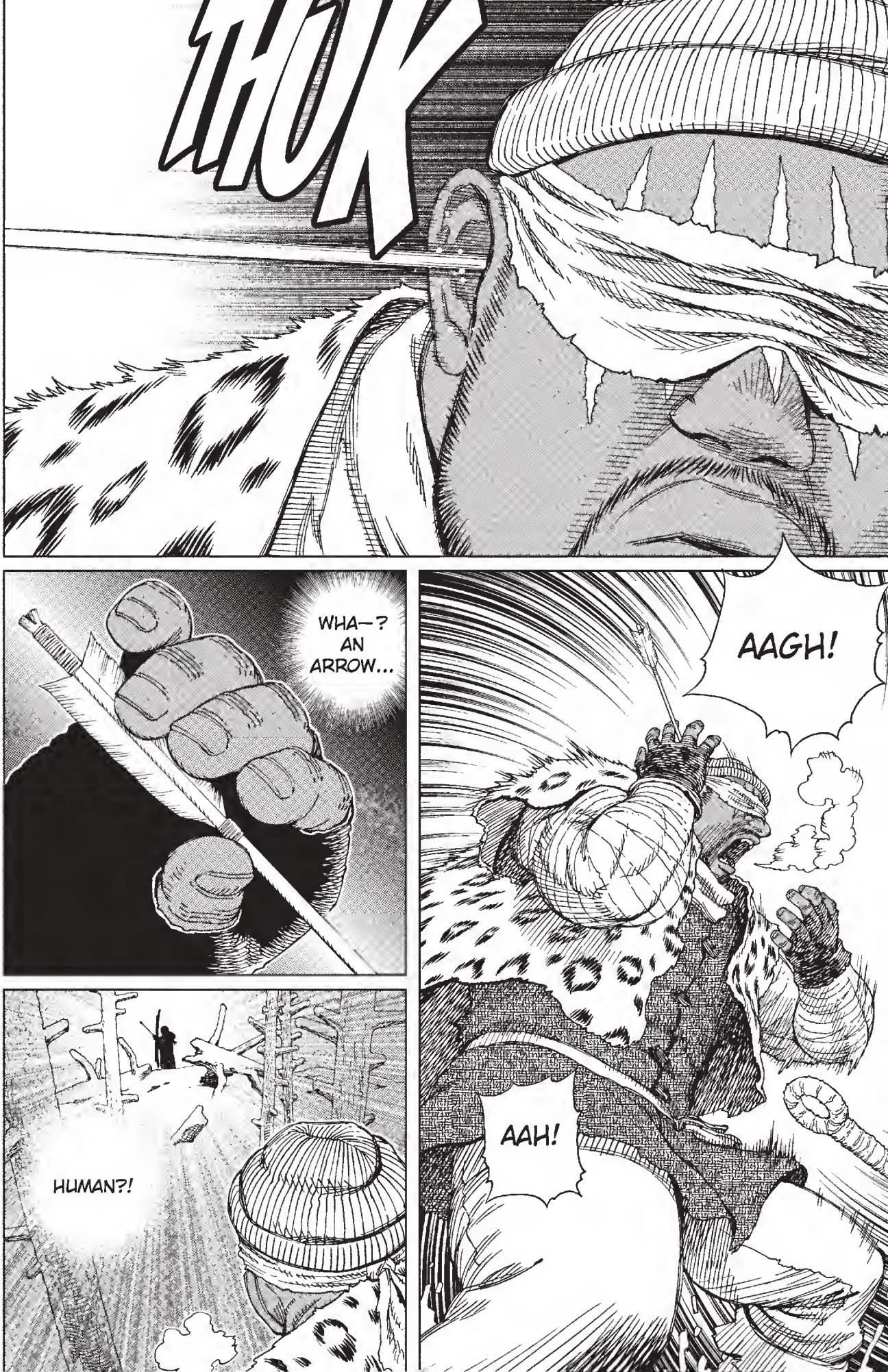

Then we came to a ruined city with a large arch.
We had no idea that this land would hold our fates...

GUH!
POW!

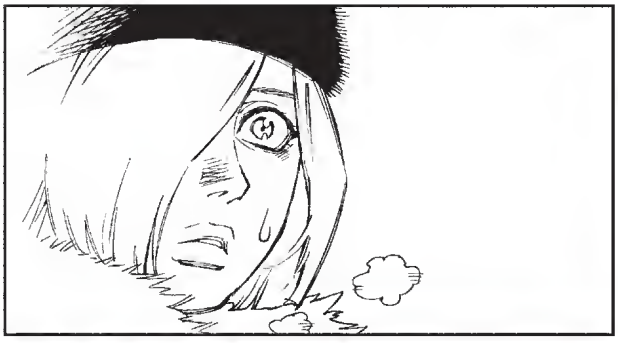

FEELS LIKE A BIG ONE!
OOH!

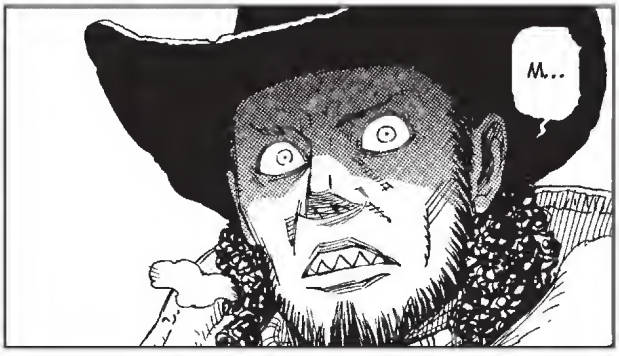
jing!
?!

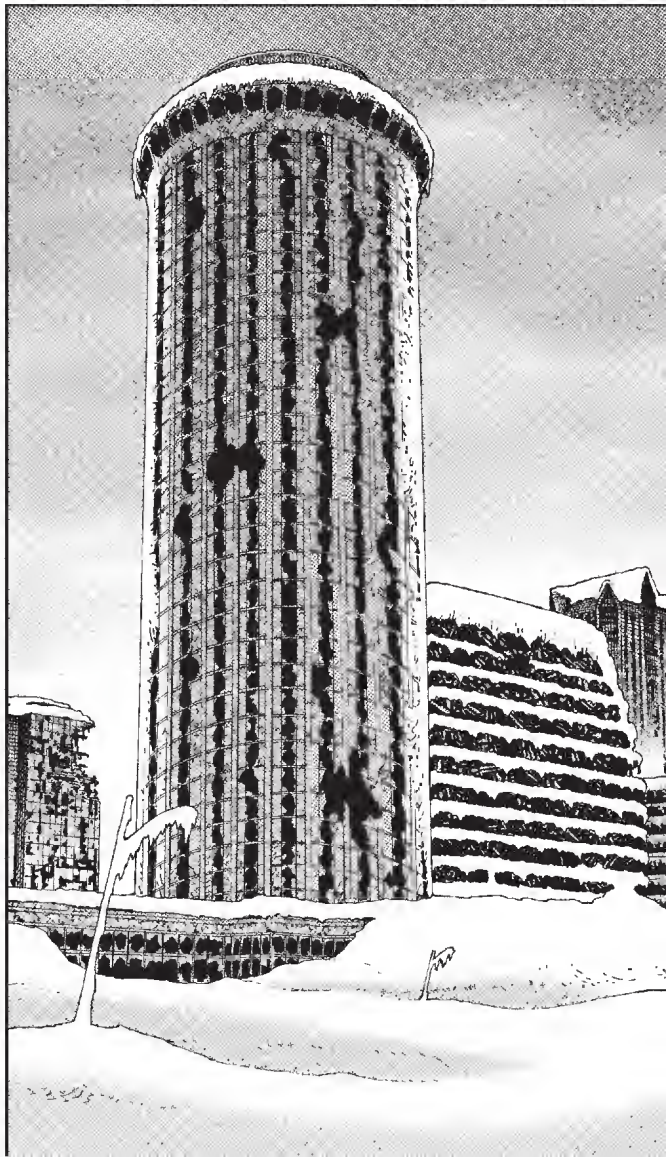

HAVEN'T BAGGED ONE THIS BIG IN A LONG WHILE! WE WON'T BE GOING HUNGRY TONIGHT!
THE LADY SHOULD BE PLEASED.


THOK
WHA—? AN ARROW...
AAGH!
HUMAN?!
AAH!

TOK
GRAAH!



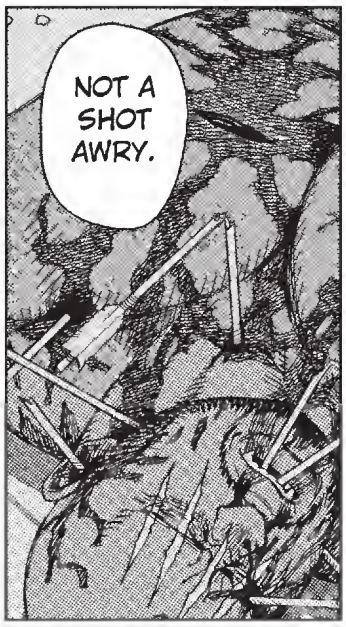

M...



WUMP
MORSE!

BOY, DIDST THOU DO THIS ALL ON YOUR OWN?
THOUGH BLIND, MORSE WAS QUITE TOUGH...

ALL SPOT ON!
THEY ALL PIERCED CRITICAL TENDONS *BETWEEN* MUSCLES.


NOT A SHOT AWRY.

HEARD YOUR KIND WAS IMMORTAL, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR MY ARROWS...
JUST LIKE HUNTIN' POLAR BEARS.

SO, YOU'RE BYRON, HEAD OF THE MAN-EATING VAMPIRES?

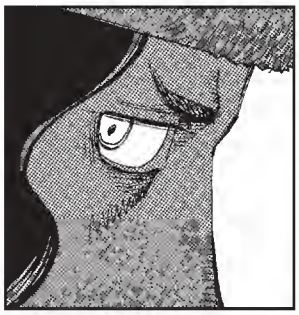
KNOW WHAT THIS IS, DON'T YOU?
NOT SO FAST, POPS.
DYNAMITE!
YOU'RE GONNA BLOW UP...AS ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY!
FWSH
THOU ART A TRUE FIND, YOUNG MAN!
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA!

I ALLOW THEE TO DECLARE THYSELF!
SHOW THY FACE!
I'VE BEEN BORED FOR SO LONG!
SHK
...AND I BELONG TO THE BRADLEY SHELTER!
THE NAME'S ARTHUR FARRELL...
"FARRELL"! COULD IT BE...?
IS HE...?!

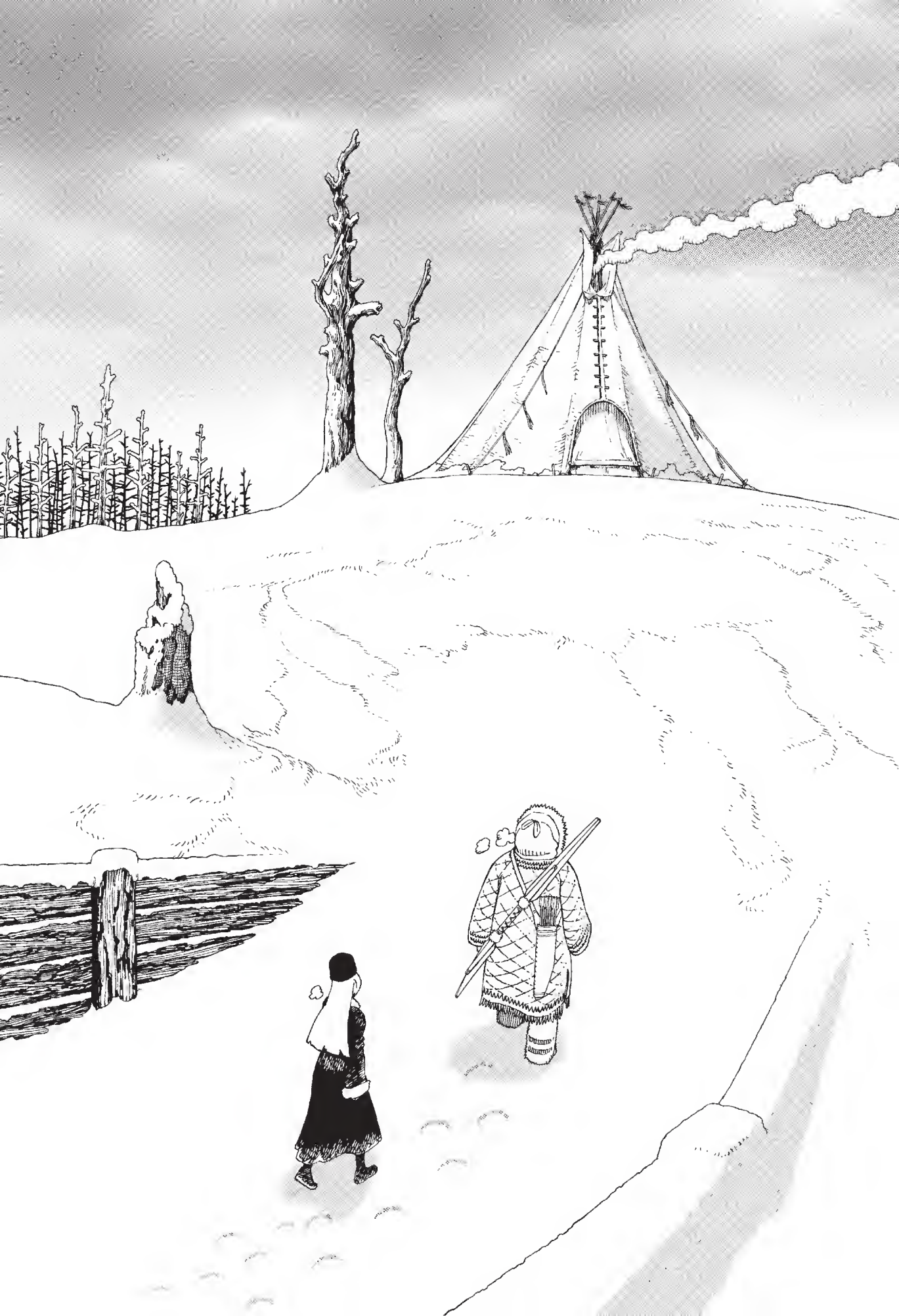
A "HELLO" IS ALL YOU GET FOR TODAY.
NOW YOU KNOW THE BRADLEY SHELTER WON'T RUN...OR HIDE!
AND...

YES.

ARE YOU VILMA, MISS?

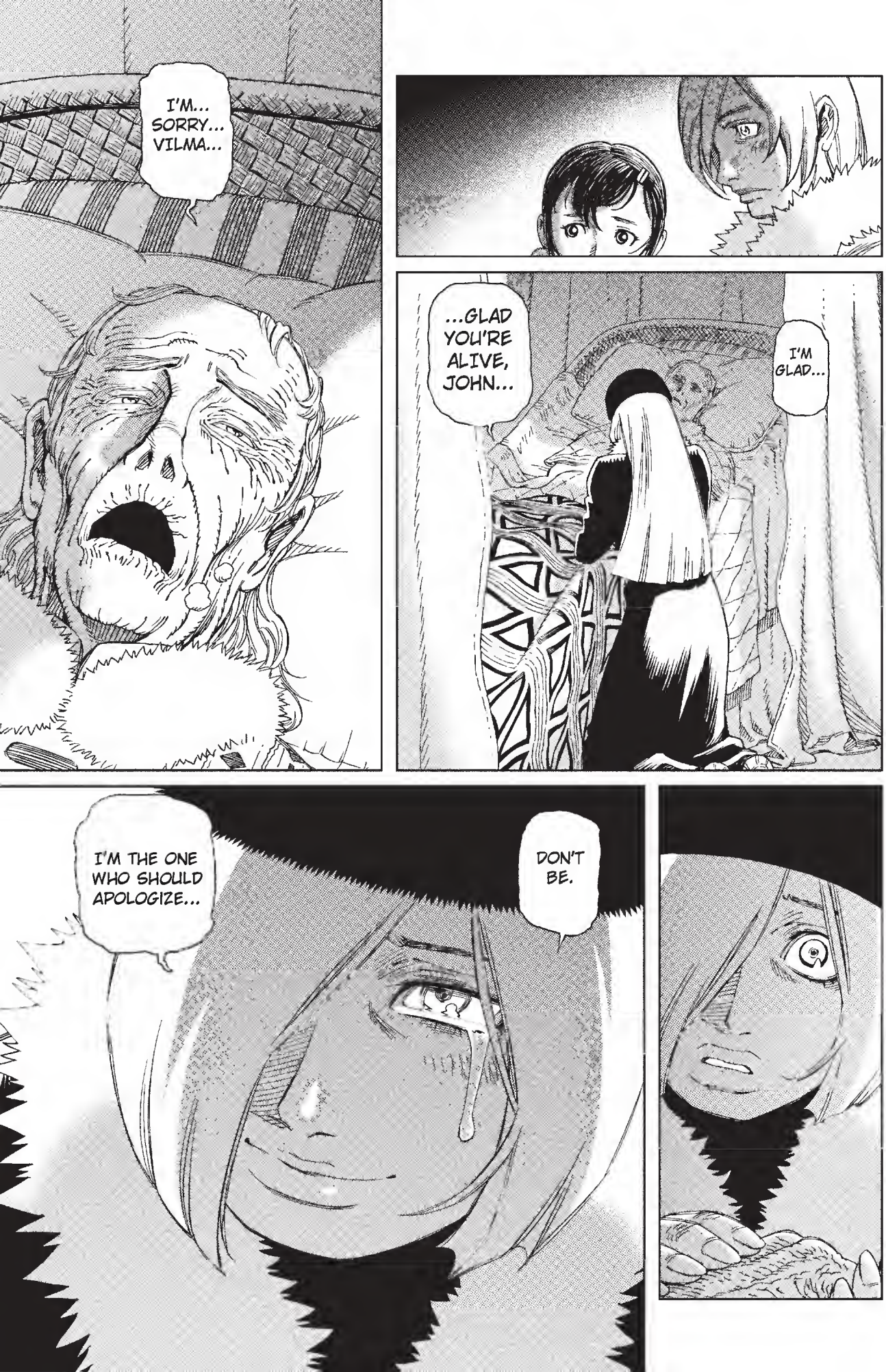


MY GRANDPA WANTS TO SEE YOU. WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
I ASSURE YOU, YOU'LL BE SAFE.

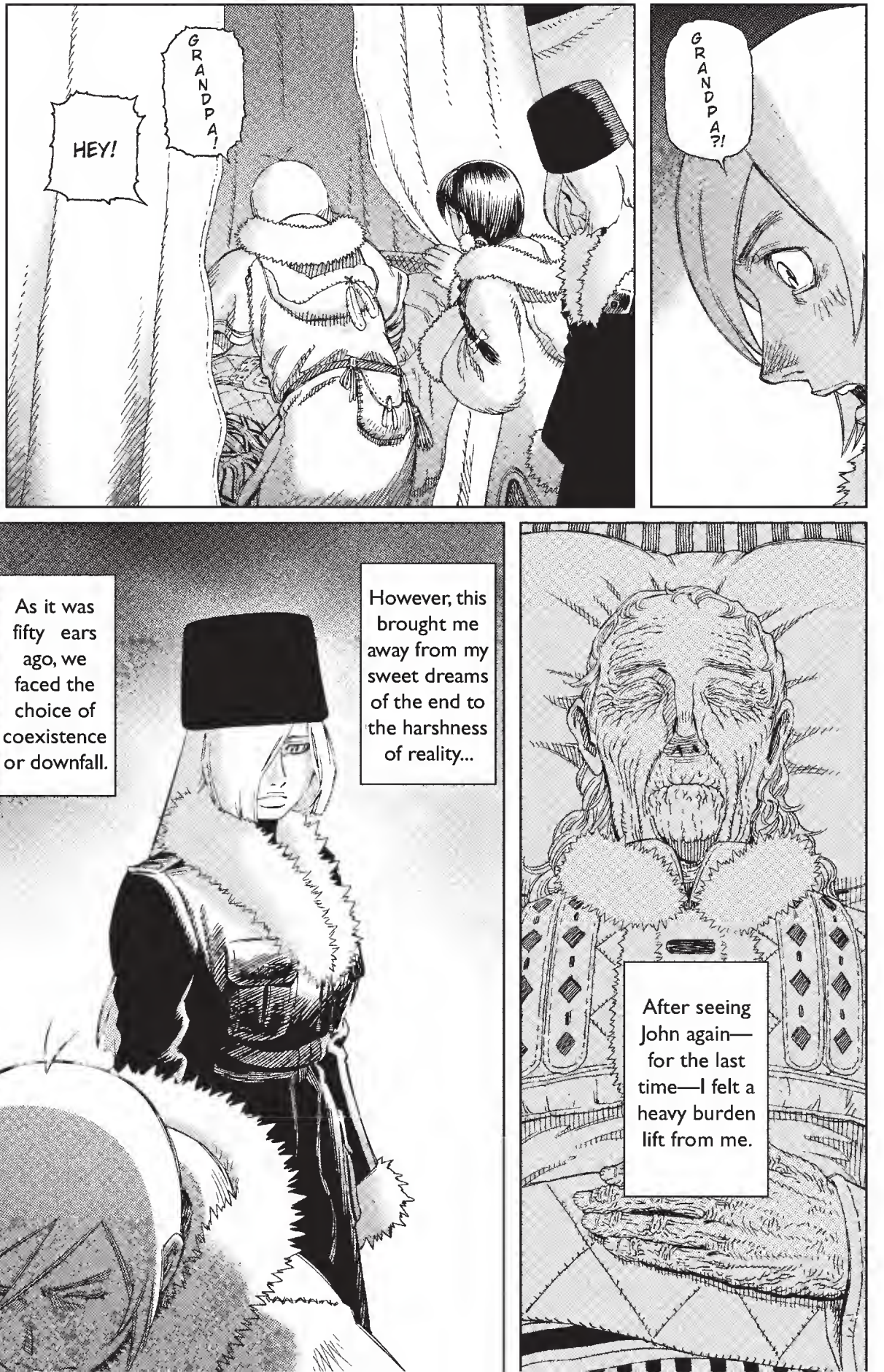


UFF
UFF

GRANDPA, I BROUGHT VILMA.
Only then did it strike me.
More than fifty years had passed since I'd seen him last.
JOHN?!
...MA...
VIL...

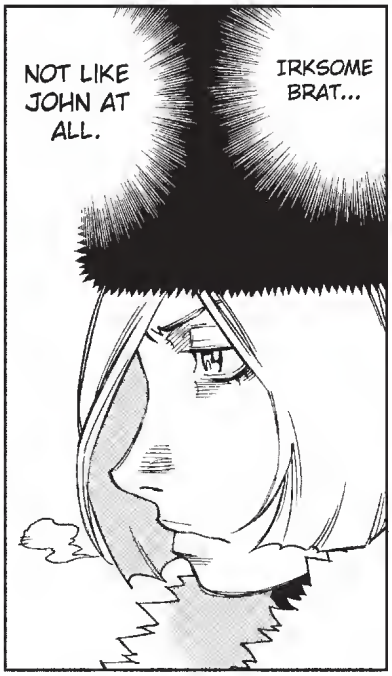

I'M... SORRY... VILMA...
...GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE, JOHN...
I'M GLAD...
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE...
DON'T BE.

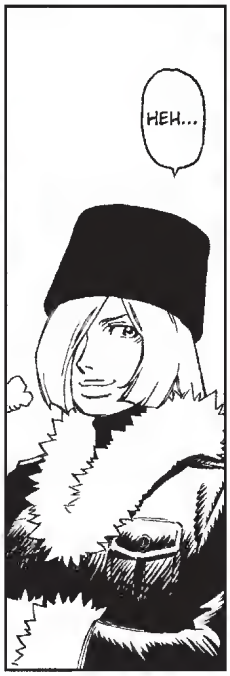
WILL YOU...
...HELP MY GRAND-CHILDREN?
ah!
I'M HERE.
A...A... ARTH...
IT'S THE LAST HOPE...OF CIVILIZATION...
...YOU MUST... RESTART MERLIN...
WORK TOGETHER... WITH EVERY-ONE...


HEY!
GRANDPA!
GRANDPA?!
As it was fifty ears ago, we faced the choice of coexistence or downfall.
However, this brought me away from my sweet dreams of the end to the harshness of reality...
After seeing John again—for the last time—I felt a heavy burden lift from me.

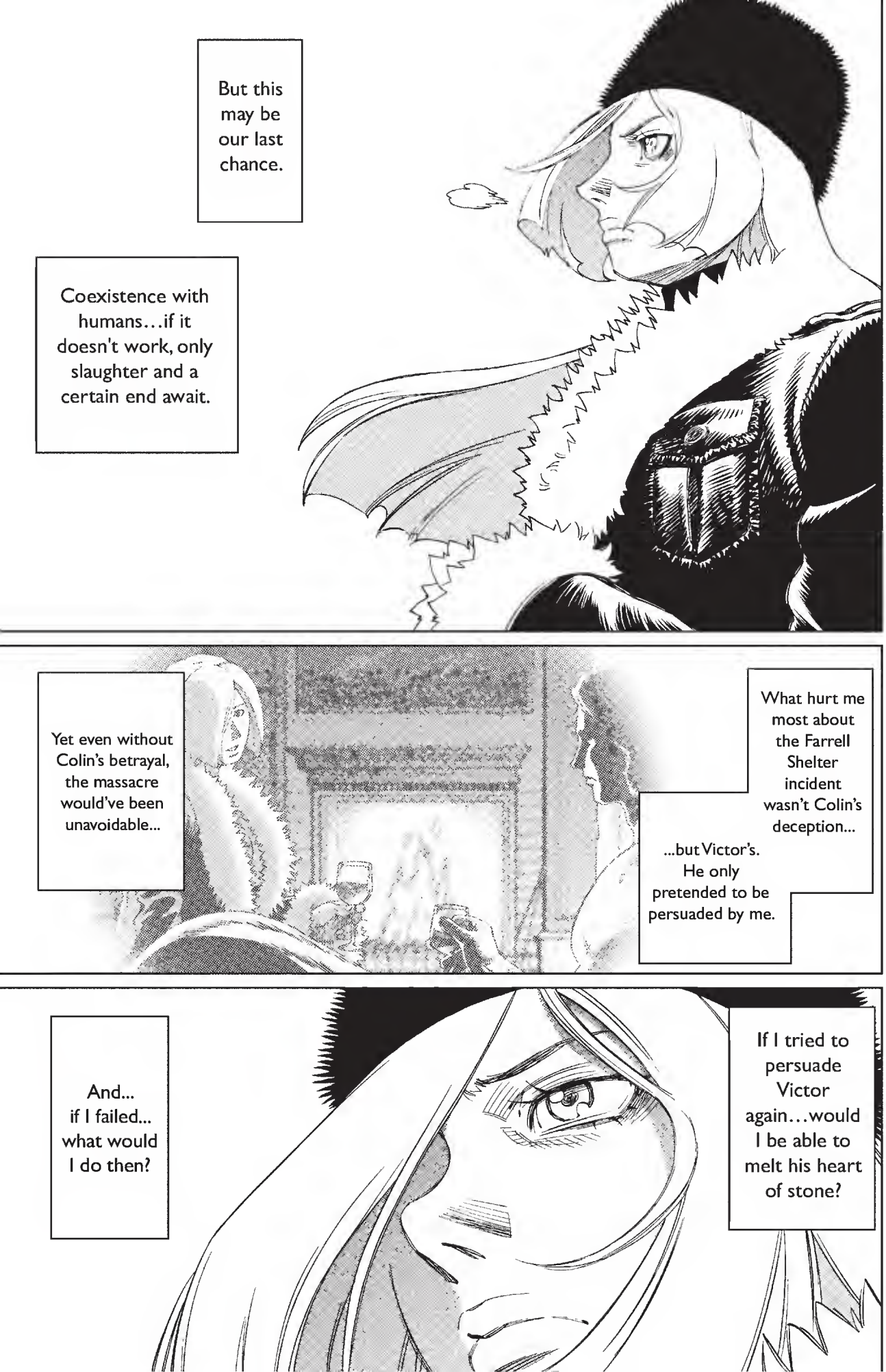
MY GRANDFATHER DIED HAPPILY DELIVERING HIS FINAL WORDS TO YOU.

SO... NOW WHAT?
WILL YOU BE OUR ALLY, OR...

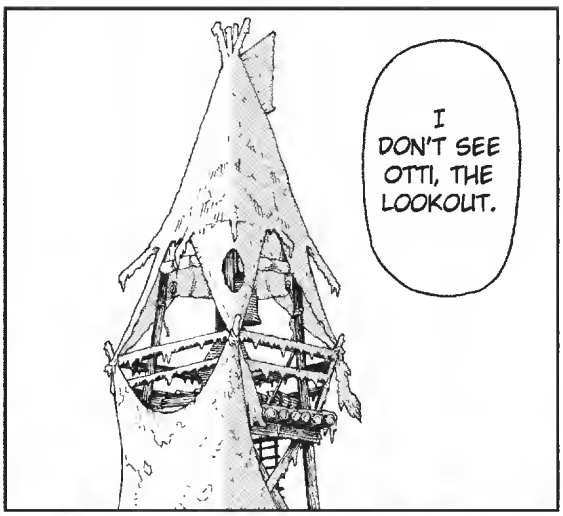

IRKSOME BRAT...
NOT LIKE JOHN AT ALL.


HEH...

I'VE ALREADY KILLED ONE OF YOU, OF COURSE...
SO YOU KNOW I DON'T MIND IF IT'S WAR!


But this may be our last chance.
Coexistence with humans…if it doesn't work, only slaughter and a certain end await.
Yet even without Colin's betrayal, the massacre would've been unavoidable...
What hurt me most about the Farrell Shelter incident wasn't Colin's deception...
...but Victor's. He only pretended to be persuaded by me.
And... if I failed... what would I do then?
If I tried to persuade Victor again…would I be able to melt his heart of stone?

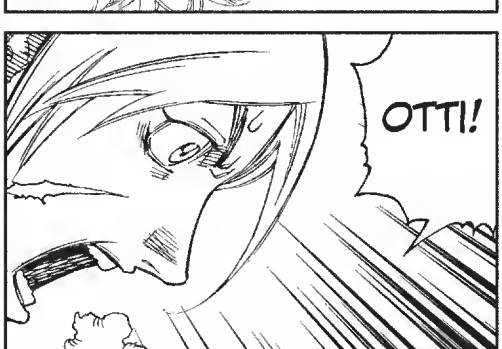
!


I DON'T SEE OTTI, THE LOOKOUT.

WEIRD...

...WHILE YOU'RE PLOTTIN' TO TRAP US AGAIN!
HERE I WAS, ALL WORRIED ABOUT YA...

WUMP


OTTI!

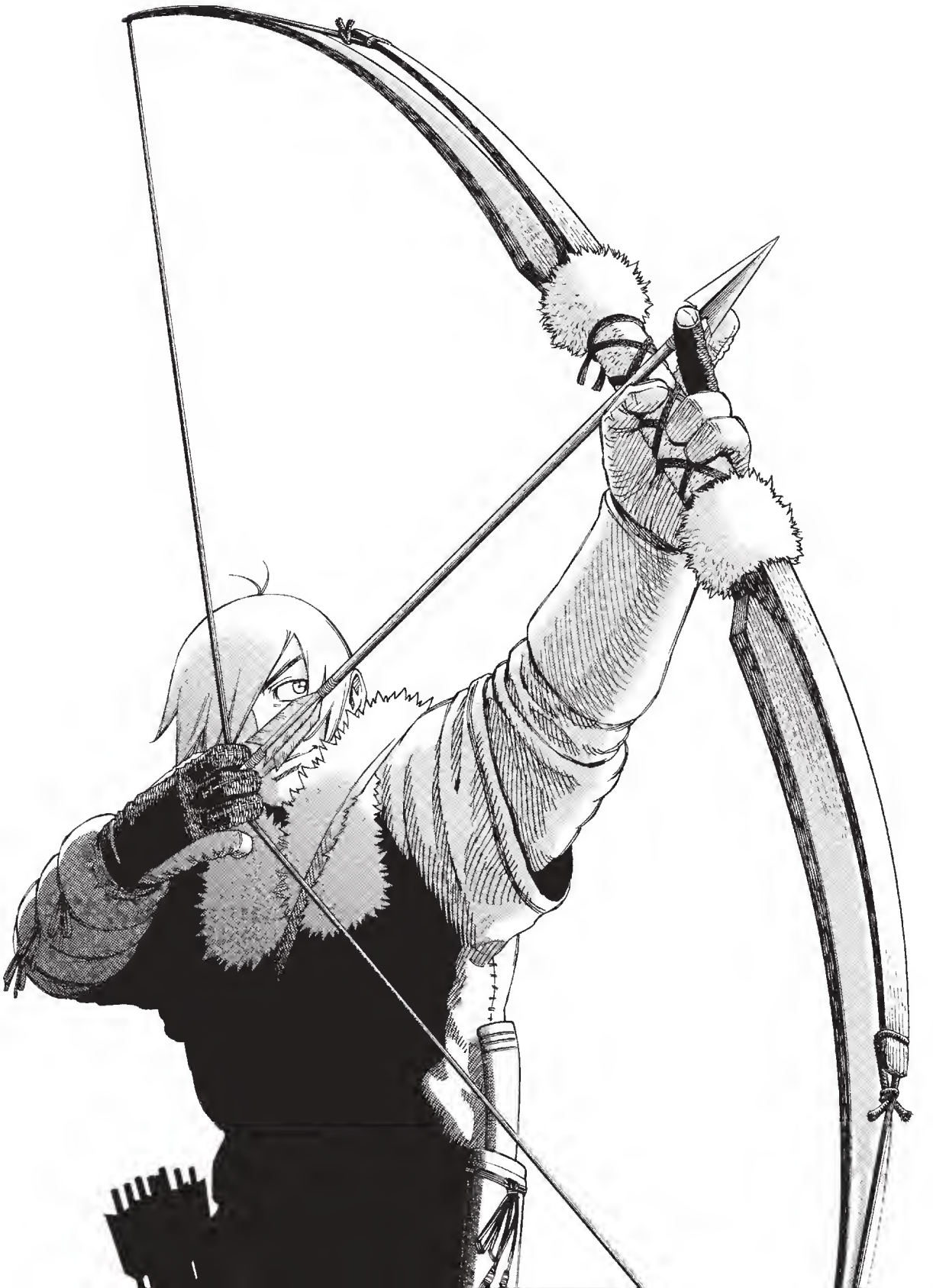
TSK, TSK, TSK!
SHK

BL
AM
YOUR TURN TO DIE, BRAT.
SMACK

TINGG!
WOW! SHE'S SUPERHUMAN!
SHE SWATTED DOWN A BULLET...?!
NO! VICTOR WILL...
...KILL YOU!
TOO BAD!
SO, VILMA... WANNA BE MY BITCH NOW?
HEH, HEH.
...

...TO TRAITORS!? HECK—I CAN RAPE YOU *AFTER* YOU'RE DEAD! HA, HA!
YOU KNOW WHAT WE DO...

PHASE 49:
Punch Through the Thick Clouds One Day

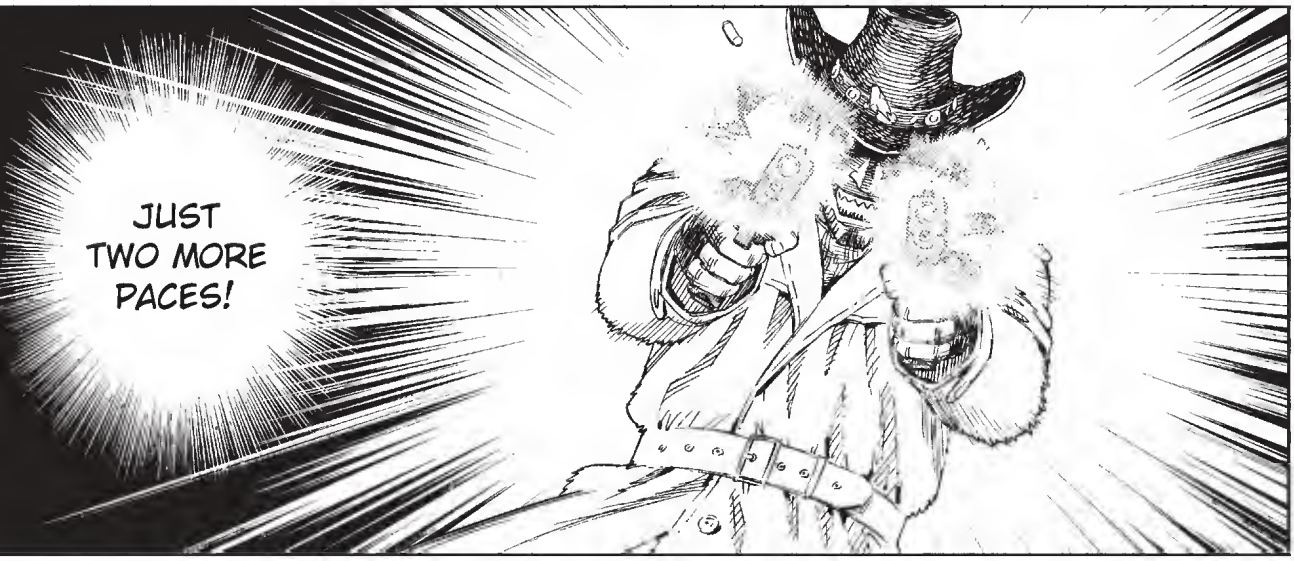


In a match between sword and gun…
It goes without saying...
...that the sword is at a disadvantage.

You must detect your enemy's rising bloodlust **before** the bullet...
Once the bullet is in your sight, it's too late to act.
I detect this will and then place my sword in the bullet's path to deflect it
...but I describe it as the **will to shoot**.
I can't explain it in scientific terms...
And such rapid fire...
To deflect them all is... impossible.
However, Jacco is also skilled. He mixes in feints with his deadly, surefi e shots.

Any fear or hesitation will be fatal.
I must protect only my vitals, and close in at risk of life and limb.
I've learned from experience that the best distance to counterattack a gunman is fi e paces for rifles..
...and ten paces for handguns.

I CAN'T GET ANY CLOSER!

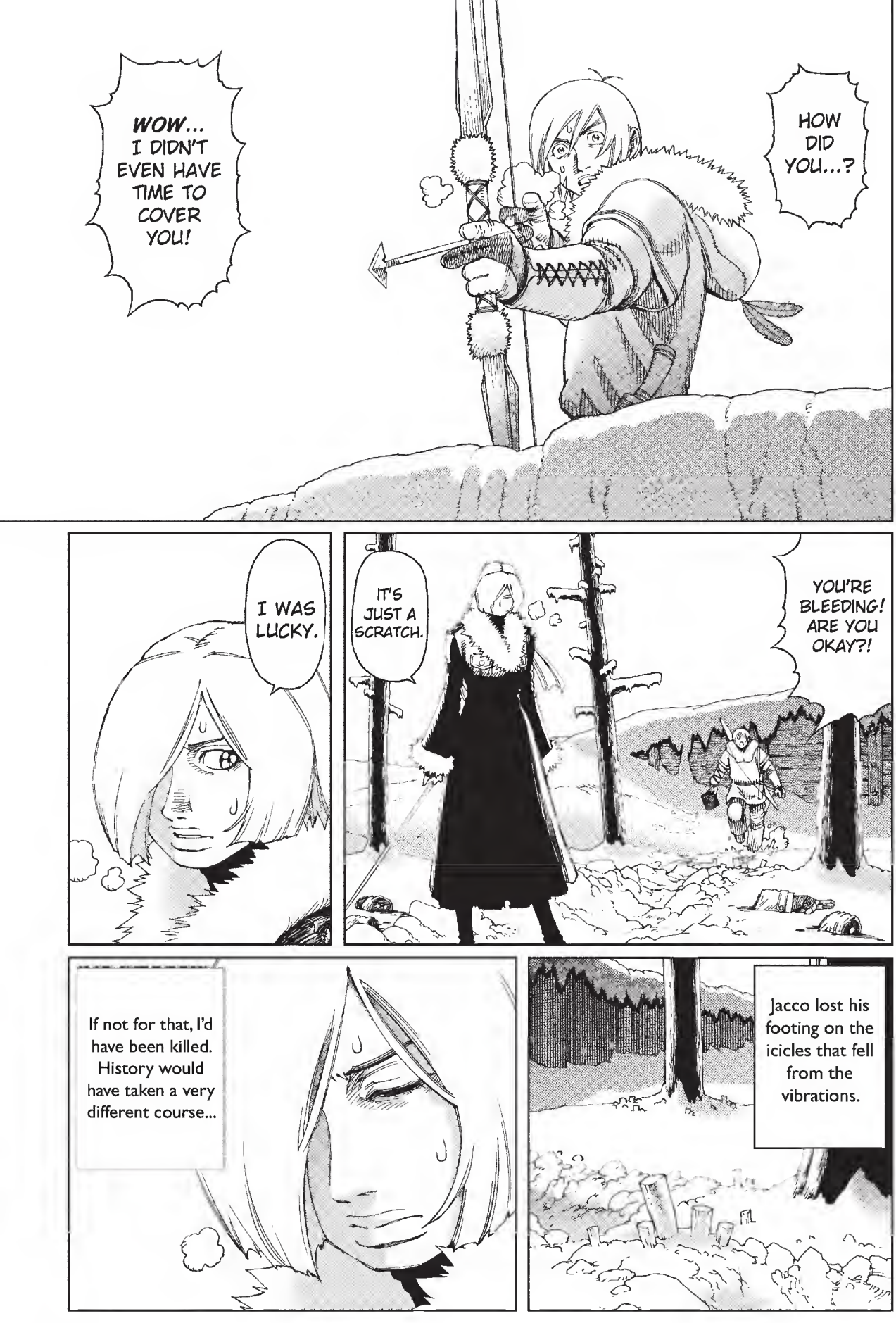

JUST TWO MORE PACES!

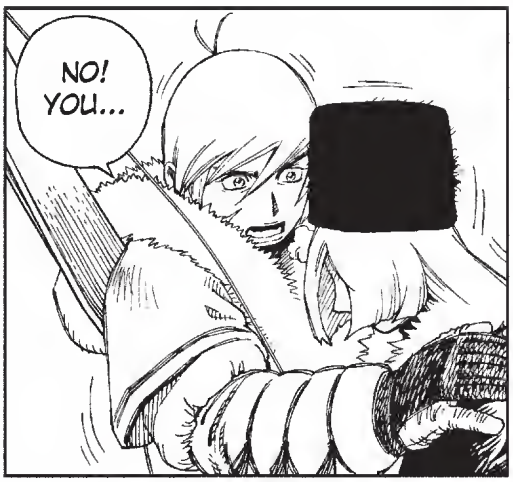
...DEFEND IN TIME!
I CAN'T...

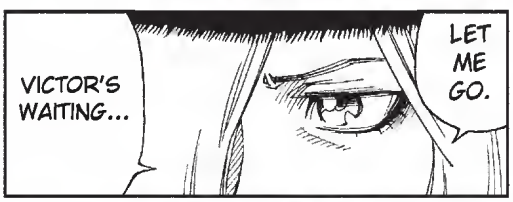
UNH
...that's all I need to make my attack!
Only for about half a second, but...
Jacco momentarily lost his balance, causing him his rapid fi e to stop.
WUP
THOK

CHAK
AWSH
FWTFSH
WOM
THOK

KRIK
KRIK
KOM!


WOW... I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO COVER YOU!
HOW DID YOU...?
I WAS LUCKY.
IT'S JUST A SCRATCH.
YOU'RE BLEEDING! ARE YOU OKAY?!
If not for that, I'd have been killed. History would have taken a very different course...
Jacco lost his footing on the icicles that fell from the vibrations.

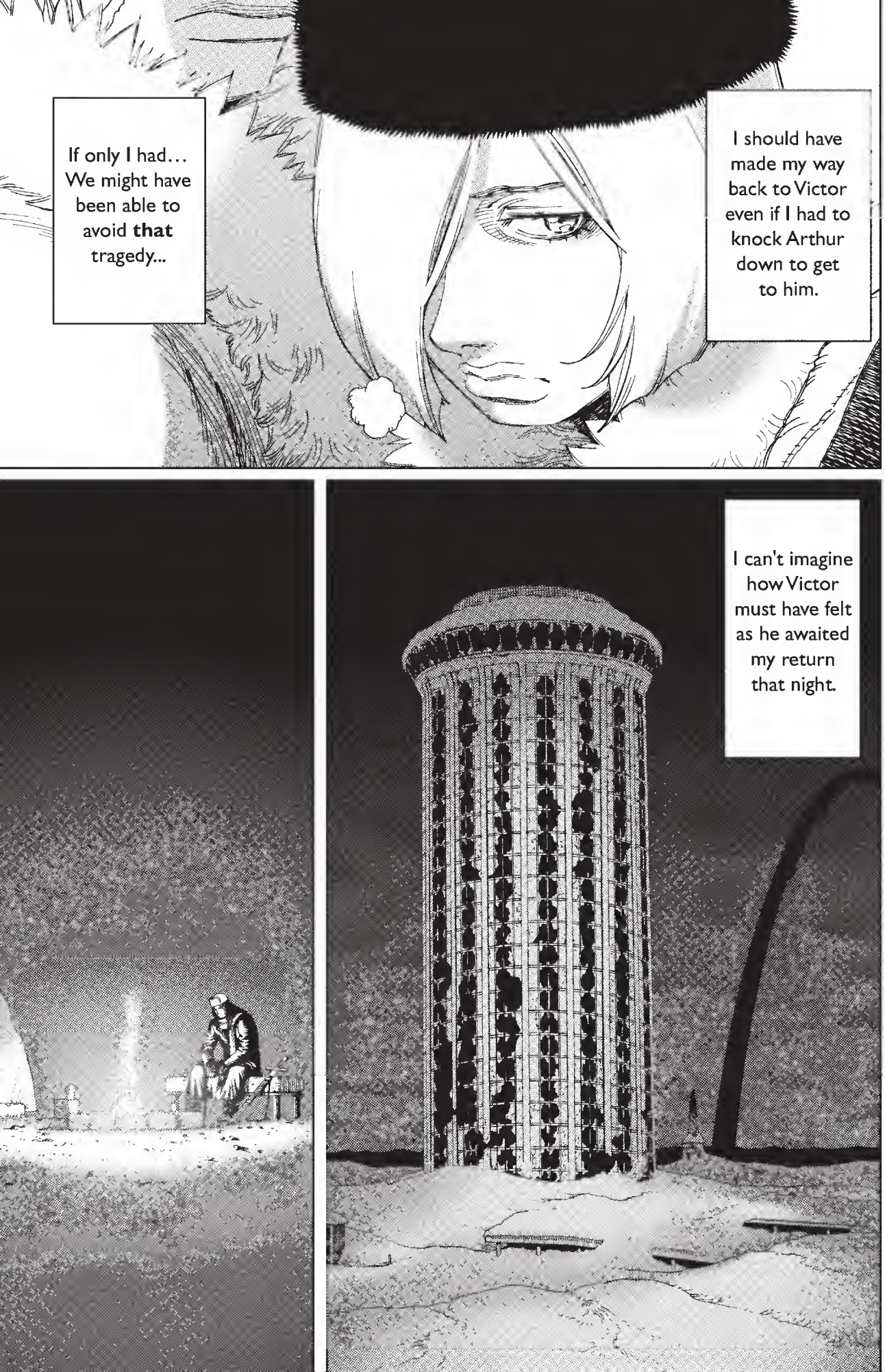

NO! YOU...

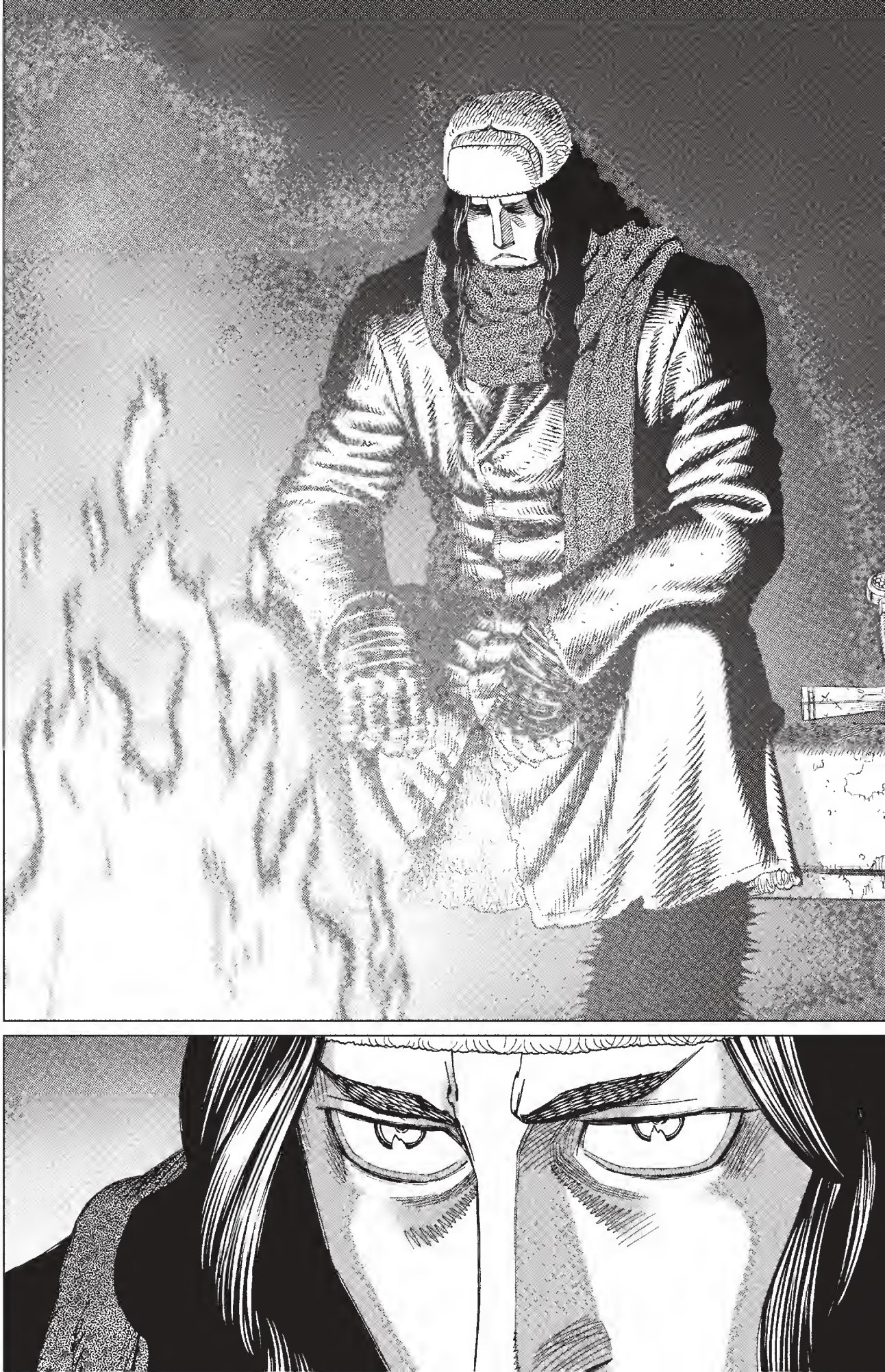

VICTOR'S WAITING...
LET ME GO.

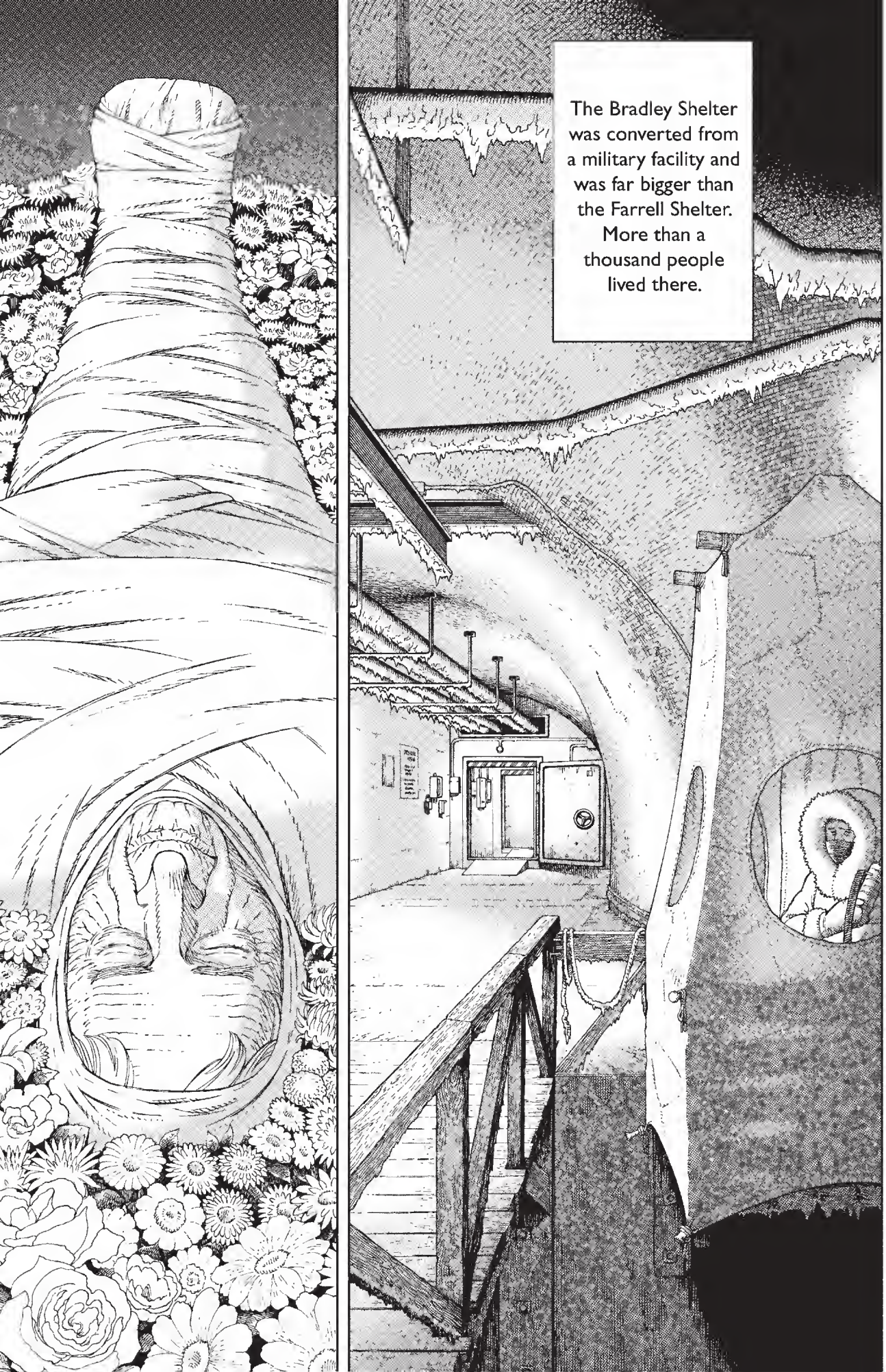
I'M GOING BACK.
UNH

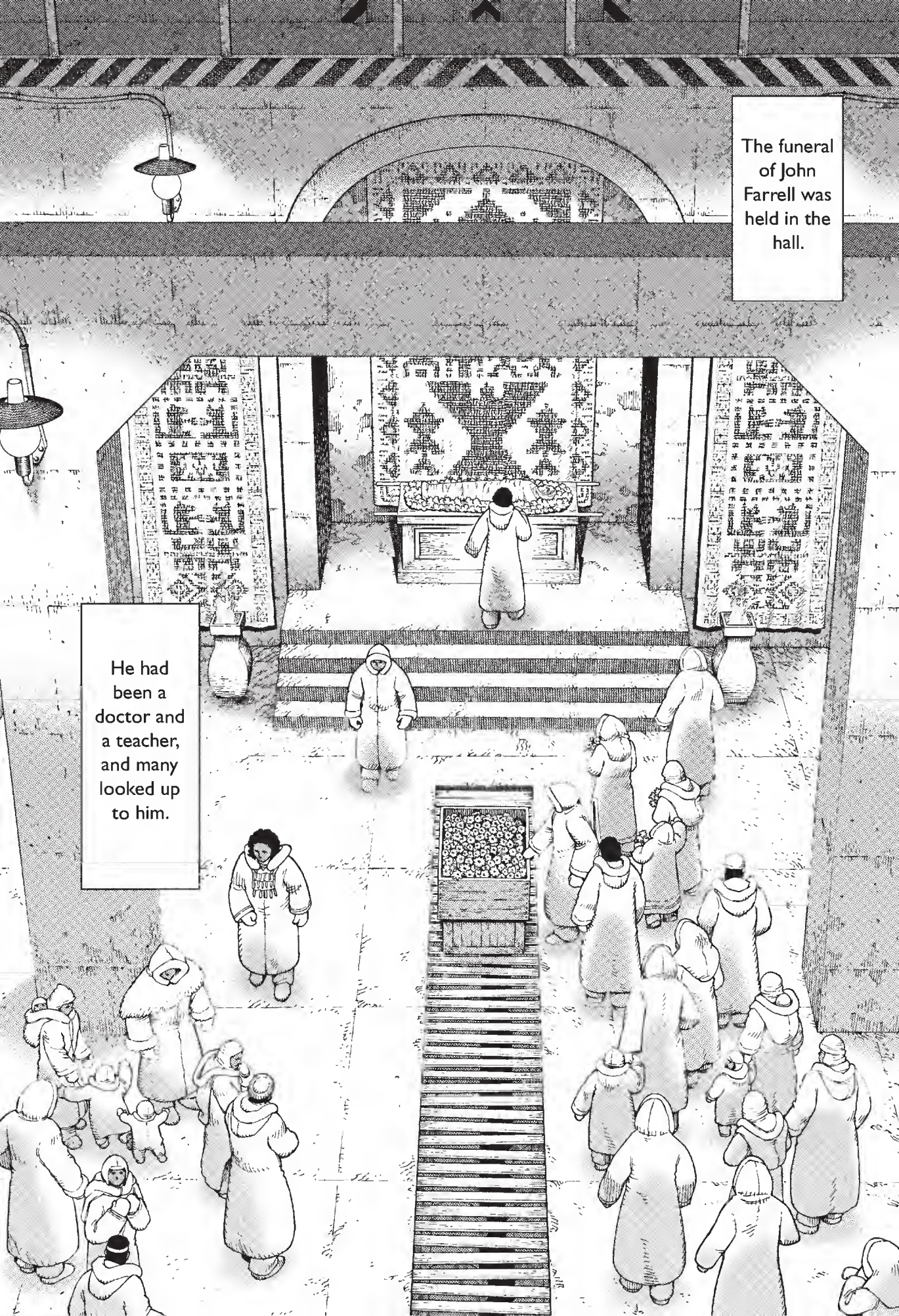
BYRON WILL KILL YOU FOR IT!
BUT HOW WILL YOU EXPLAIN THAT YOU KILLED ONE OF YOUR OWN?!

...SEE YOU AGAIN.
I CAN'T LET YOU GO BACK TO HIM!
I...I GET THE FEELING IF I LET YOU GO I MAY NEVER...

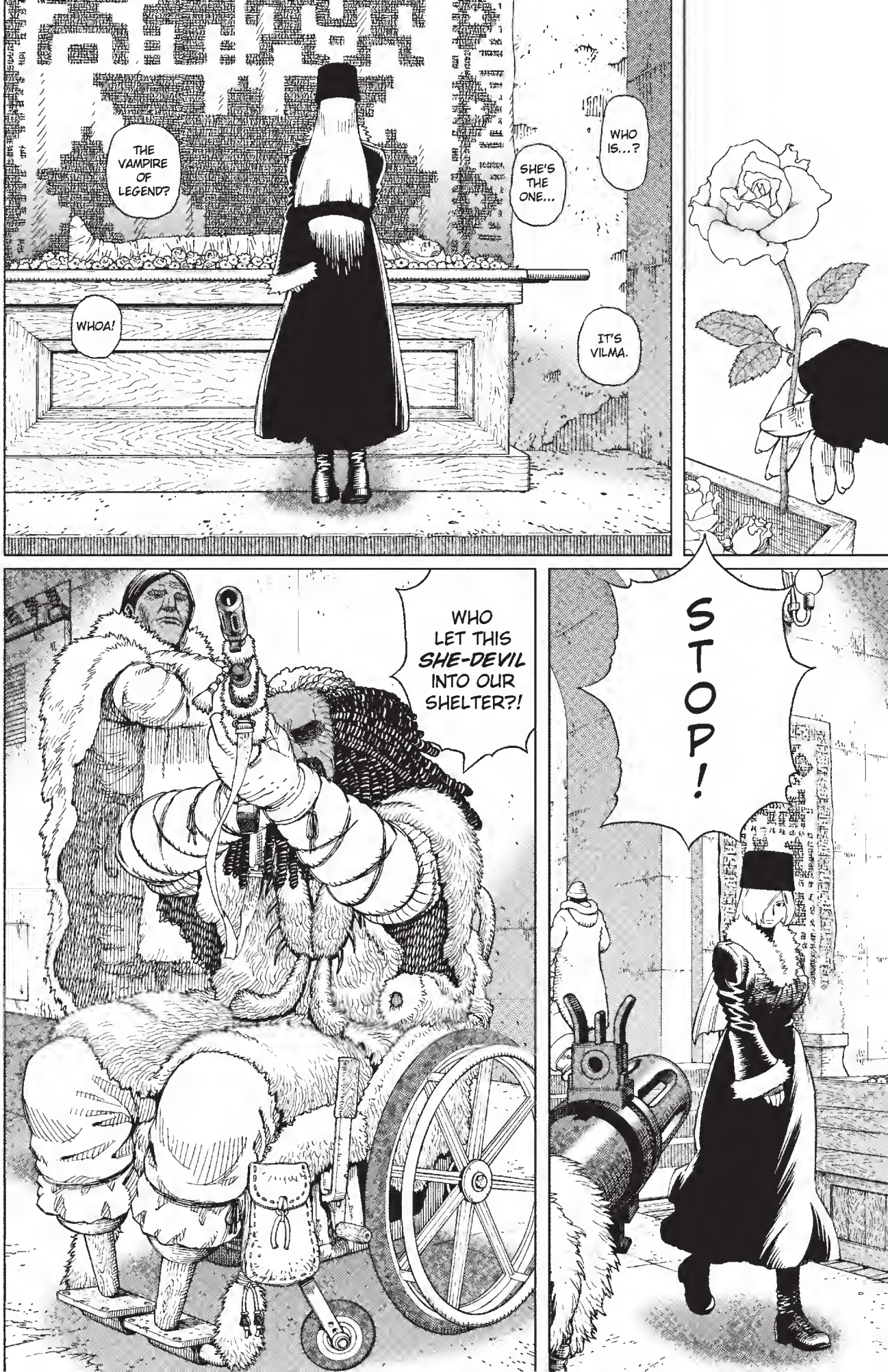

If only I had... We might have been able to avoid **that** tragedy...
I should have made my way back to Victor even if I had to knock Arthur down to get to him.
I can't imagine how Victor must have felt as he awaited my return that night.




The Bradley Shelter was converted from a military facility and was far bigger than the Farrell Shelter. More than a thousand people lived there.

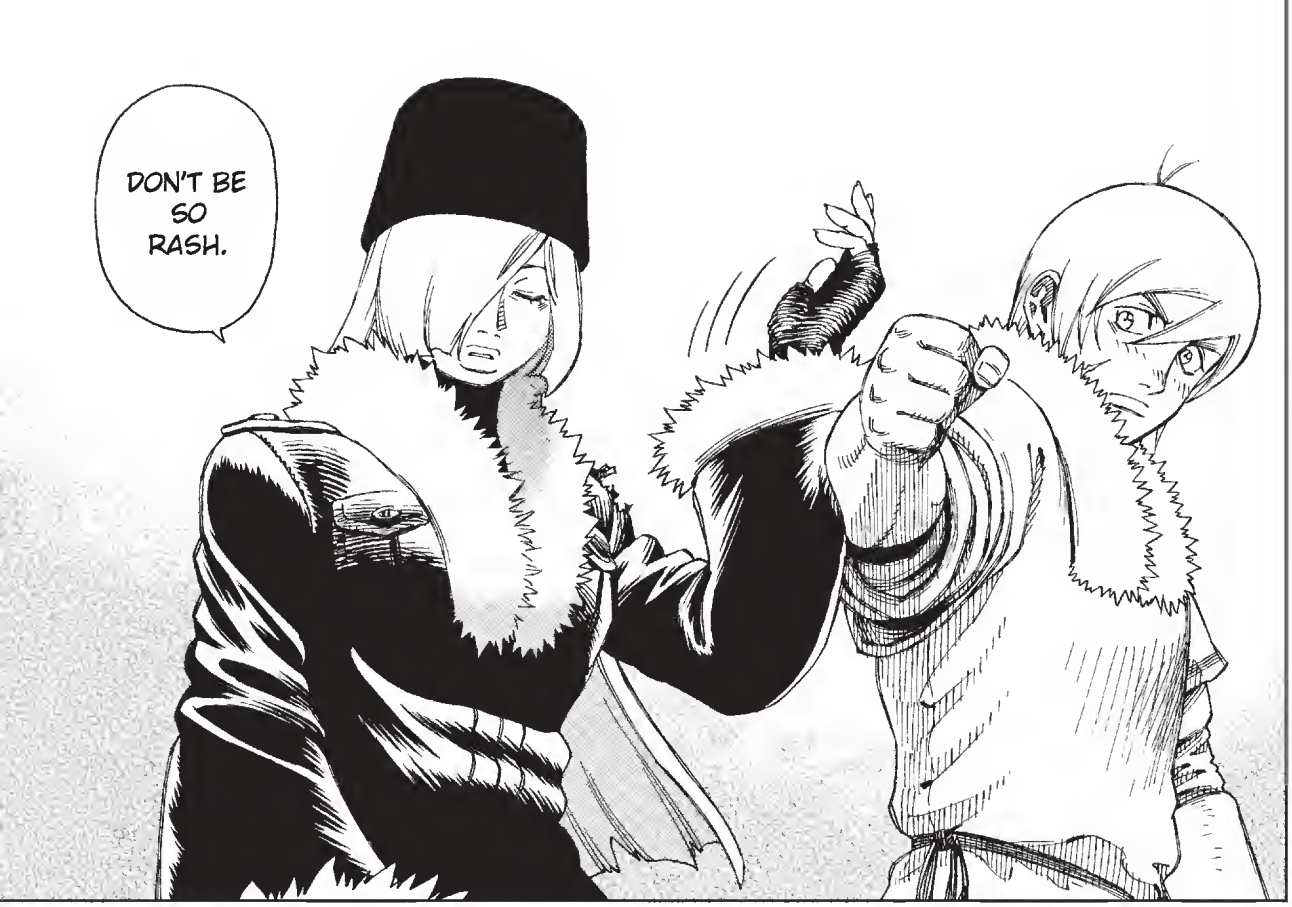

The funeral of John Farrell was held in the hall.
He had been a doctor and a teacher, and many looked up to him.

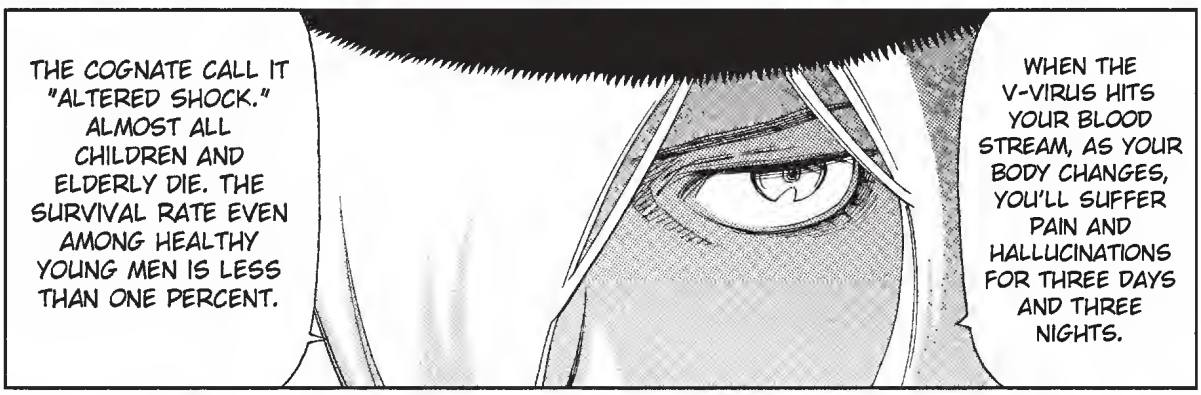
It seemed that Arthur did not have an ear for music...
YAWN
Awash in memory, Arthur's fiancée, Haruka, played a low, melancholy tune on her flute.
I let my mind rest with John for a time.

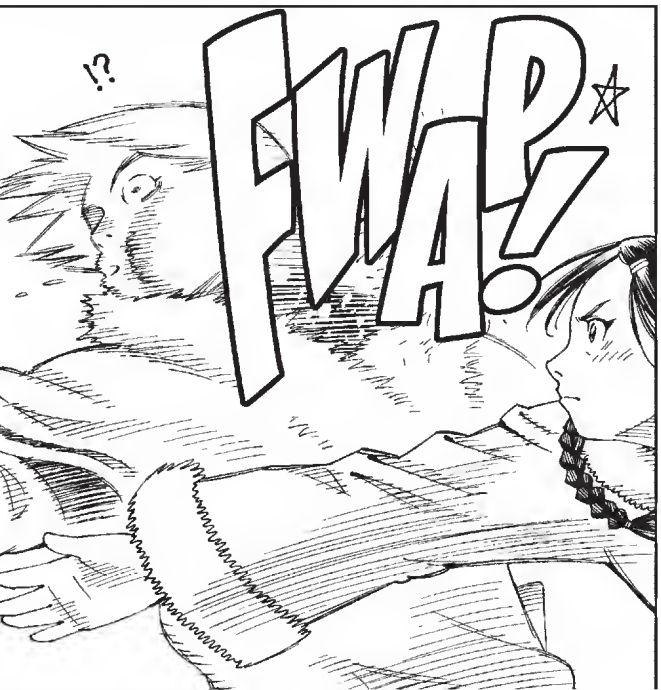

THE VAMPIRE OF LEGEND?
WHOA!
WHO IS...?
SHE'S THE ONE...
IT'S VILMA.
STOP!
WHO LET THIS *SHE-DEVIL* INTO OUR SHELTER?!

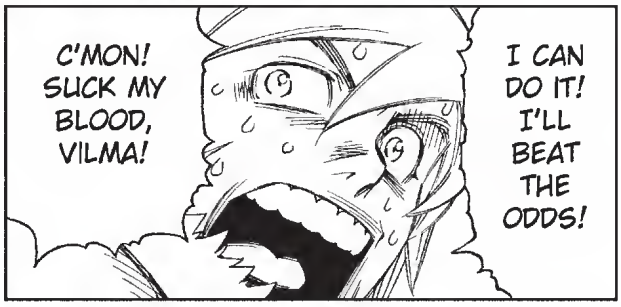
Marcus, leader of the Bradley Shelter.
DAMN BLOOD-SUCKERS!
SHE EVEN KILLED ONE OF HER OWN TO SAVE MY LIFE.
YOU HEARD MY REPORT! LET HER BE!
VILMA IS MY GUEST, MARCUS!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FARRELL SHELTER, BOY?!
OUT OF THE WAY!
SHE AND GRANDPA MADE UP... VILMA'S NOT OUR ENEMY!

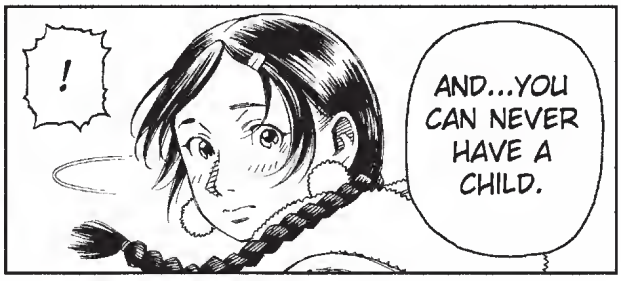
NOW, NOW!
GRR...
STOP IT, YOU TWO!
HOW CAN YOU FIGHT AT DR. FARRELL'S FUNERAL?!
ARE YOU THAT AFRAID?
SHE'S JUST A VAMPIRE! WHAT KIND OF COWARDS ARE YOU?
TKSH
C'MON, VILMA! GIMME A BITE!
DO I HAVE TO BECOME ONE MYSELF JUST TO SHOW YOU THAT WE'RE NO DIFFERENT?
VAP


DON'T BE SO RASH.

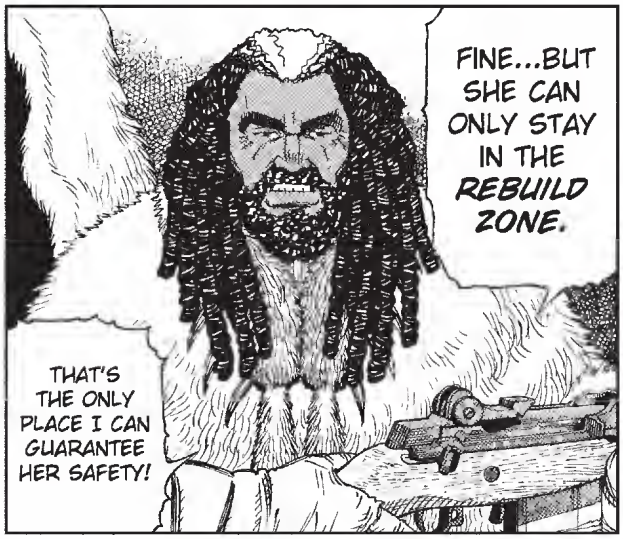

THE COGNATE CALL IT "ALTERED SHOCK." ALMOST ALL CHILDREN AND ELDERLY DIE. THE SURVIVAL RATE EVEN AMONG HEALTHY YOUNG MEN IS LESS THAN ONE PERCENT.
WHEN THE V-VIRUS HITS YOUR BLOOD STREAM, AS YOUR BODY CHANGES, YOU'LL SUFFER PAIN AND HALLUCINATIONS FOR THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS.


!?
FWAP!

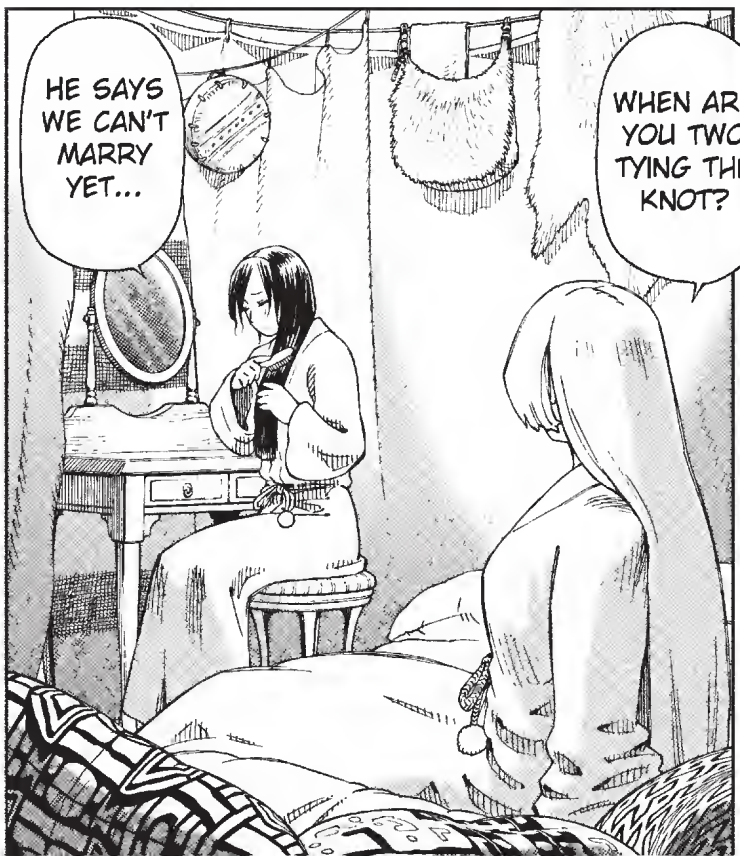

C'MON! SUCK MY BLOOD, VILMA!
I CAN DO IT! I'LL BEAT THE ODDS!


!
AND...YOU CAN NEVER HAVE A CHILD.

—STUPID!
ART! DON'T—
—BE—
WAPPAPPA

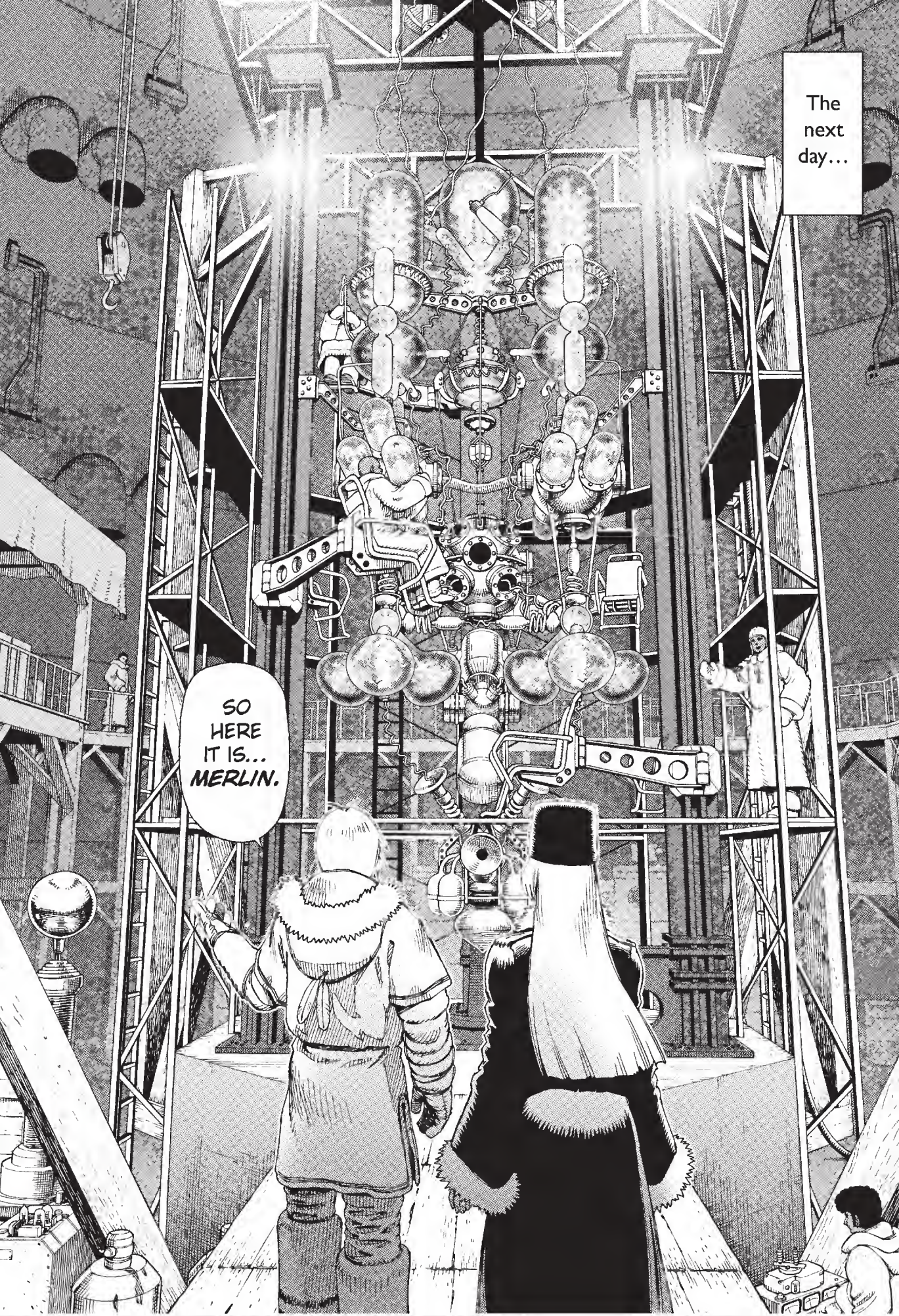

FINE...BUT SHE CAN ONLY STAY IN THE REBUILD ZONE.
THAT'S THE ONLY PLACE I CAN GUARANTEE HER SAFETY!

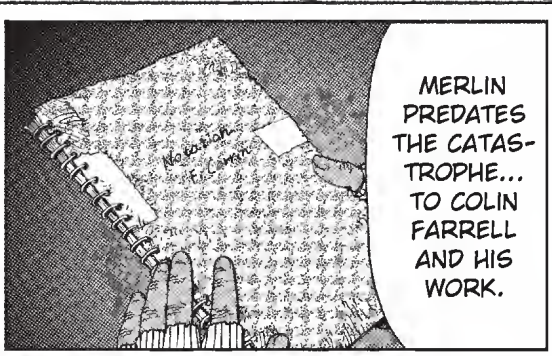
?
WAAH
YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE A GIRL CRY.
BUT THANK YOU...
...FOR COMING TO MY DEFENSE LIKE THAT.

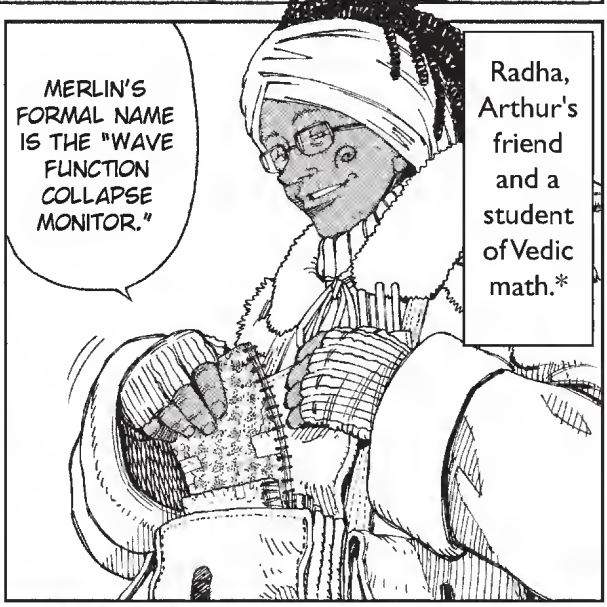

HE SAYS WE CAN'T MARRY YET...
WHEN ARE YOU TWO TYING THE KNOT?

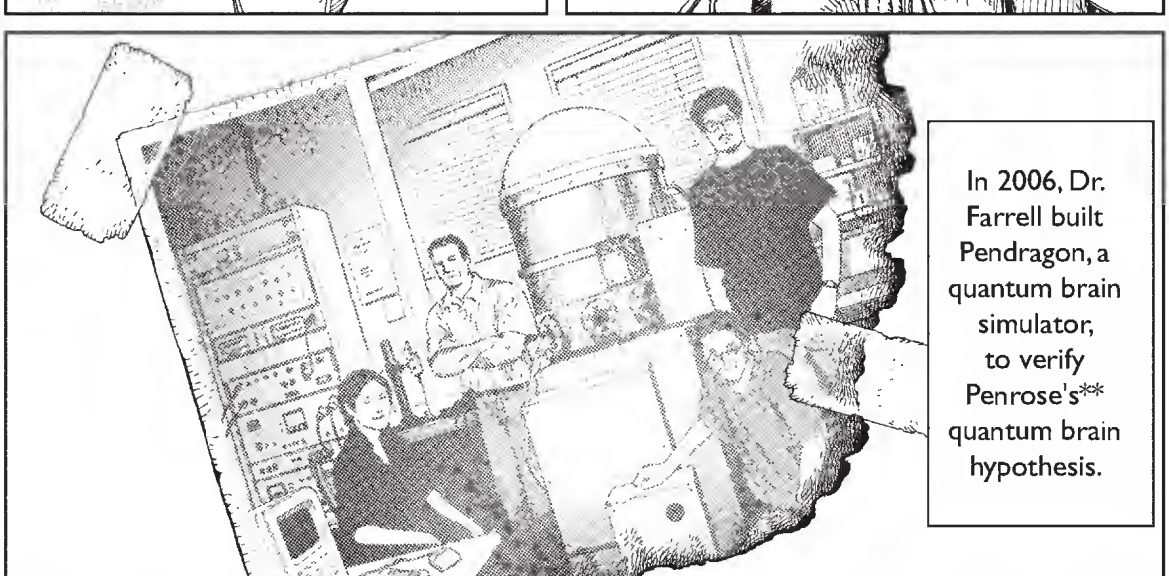
I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE ME LIKE THAT...

I DON'T REALLY KNOW MYSELF.
I GUESS IT'S LIKE THE MIRROR OF OUR HOPES AND FEARS...
IF ONLY DR. FARRELL HAD LIVED TO SEE OUR WEDDING DAY...
...NOT UNTIL WORK ON MERLIN HAS MOVED AHEAD.
WHAT IS IT?
JOHN MADE MENTION OF THIS MERLIN, TOO...
YOU'VE SEEN THE MOON, RIGHT?!
WHUMP
SO, VILMA! TELL ME!
HUH?
TELL ME WHAT SPRING AND THE STARRY SKY ARE LIKE! I'VE ONLY READ ABOUT THEM.


The next day...
SO HERE IT IS... MERLIN.



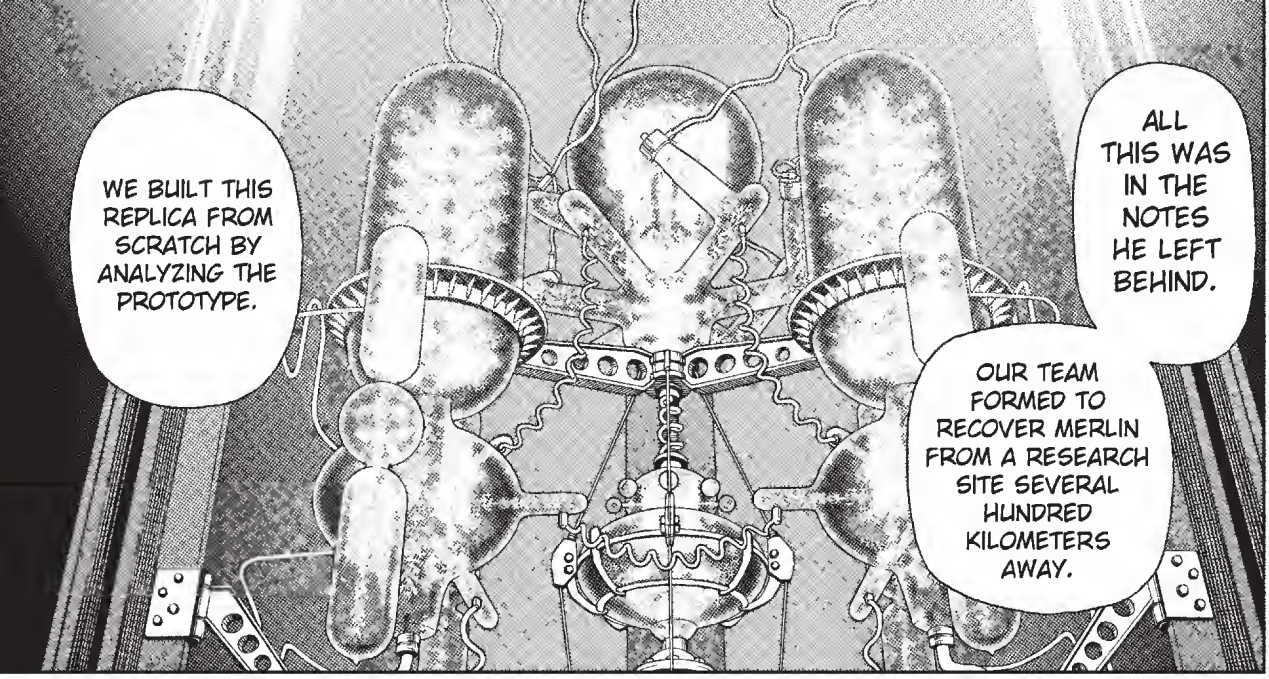


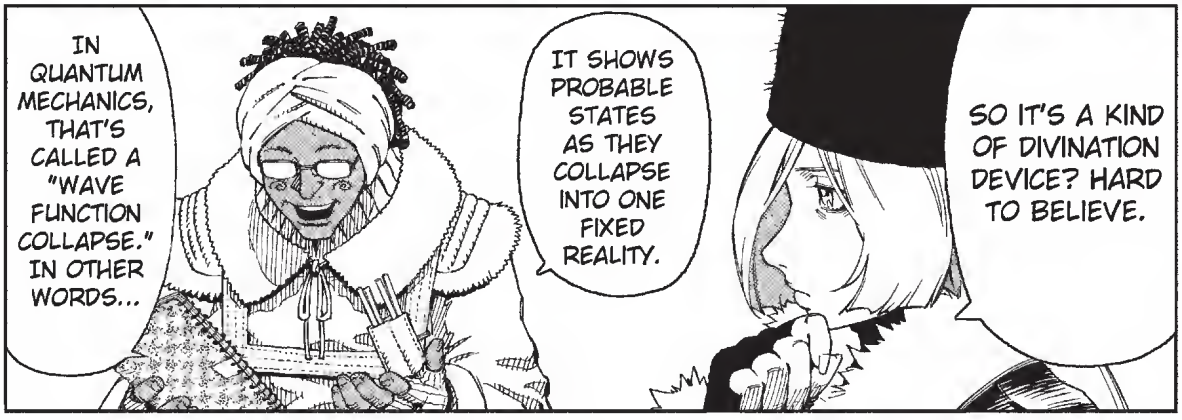


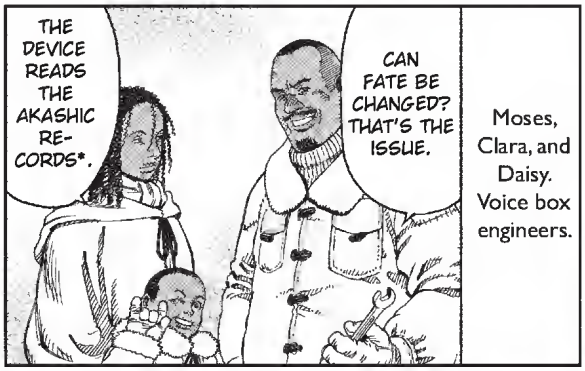
***Vedic mathematics**: A math derived from ancient Indian Brahman scriptures. It utilizes a sutra-based calculation method to solve complex problems more easily than Western math.*

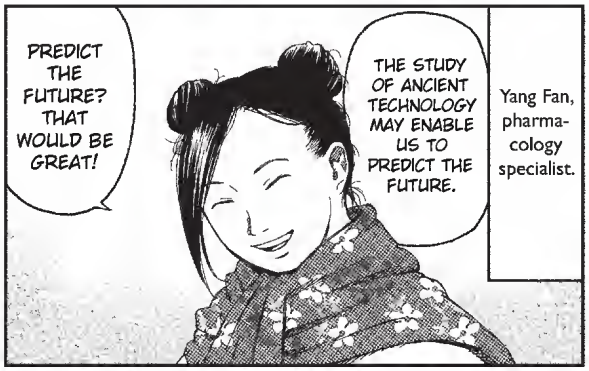
***Roger Penrose (1931-)**: A mathematical physicist who made numerous contributions to cosmology. He proposed that consciousness is produced by quantum effects occurring in brain cell microtubules.*

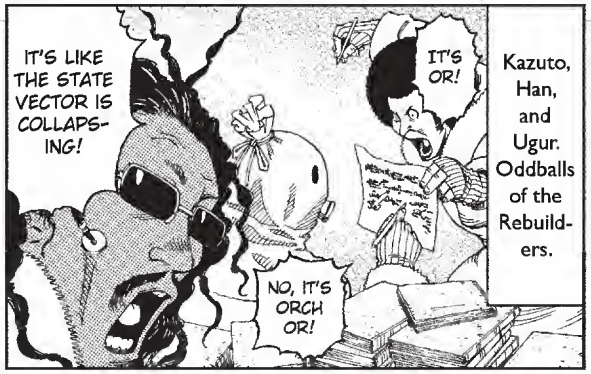
Pendragon's successor, Merlin, was built...
The military promptly stepped in to fund a team to research whether it could predict the future.
With it, Farrell discovered data that appeared to be predictive of real-world events.
...but Dr. Farrell was ignored by his superiors. His team went back to their respective countries to prepare for the disaster.
...and in 2010, Merlin foretold a huge meteor impact...
The next year, it all came true.
Human civilization fell in the blink of an eye.





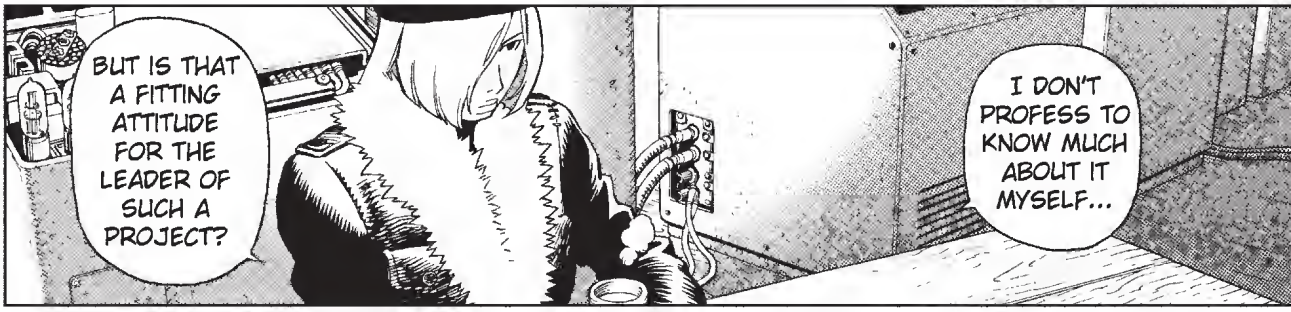


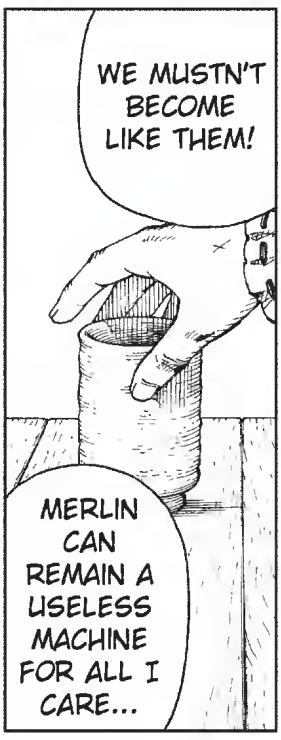


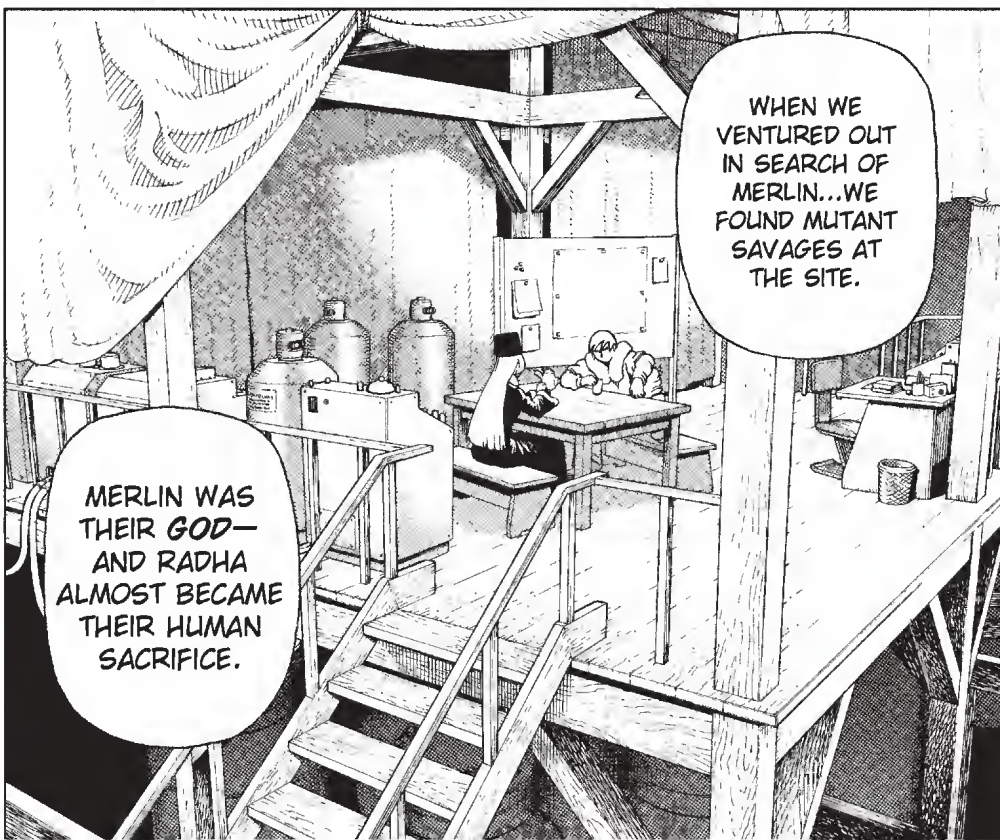


***Akashic records**: *A mystical recording layer on which the information of all things since the birth of our cosmos is written. This concept was put forward by Rudolf Steiner (1861–1925).*

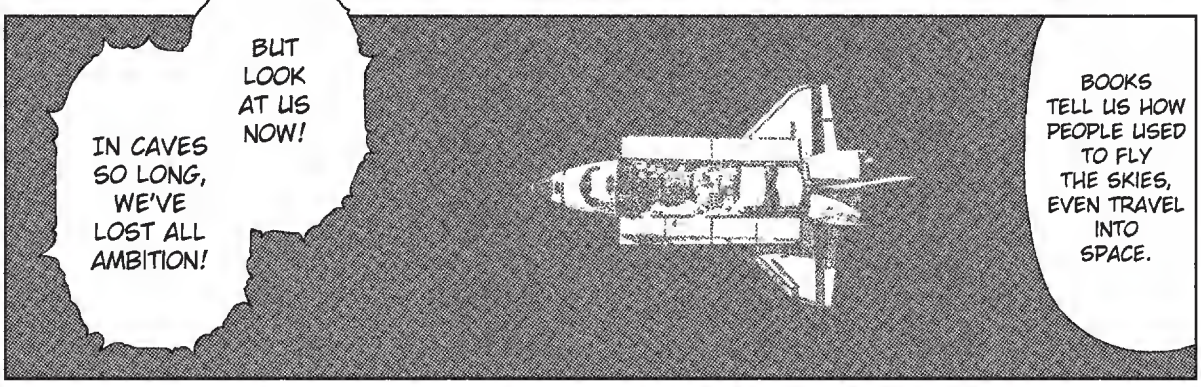
I DON'T REALLY CARE IF MERLIN CAN PREDICT THE FUTURE OR NOT!
WELL...

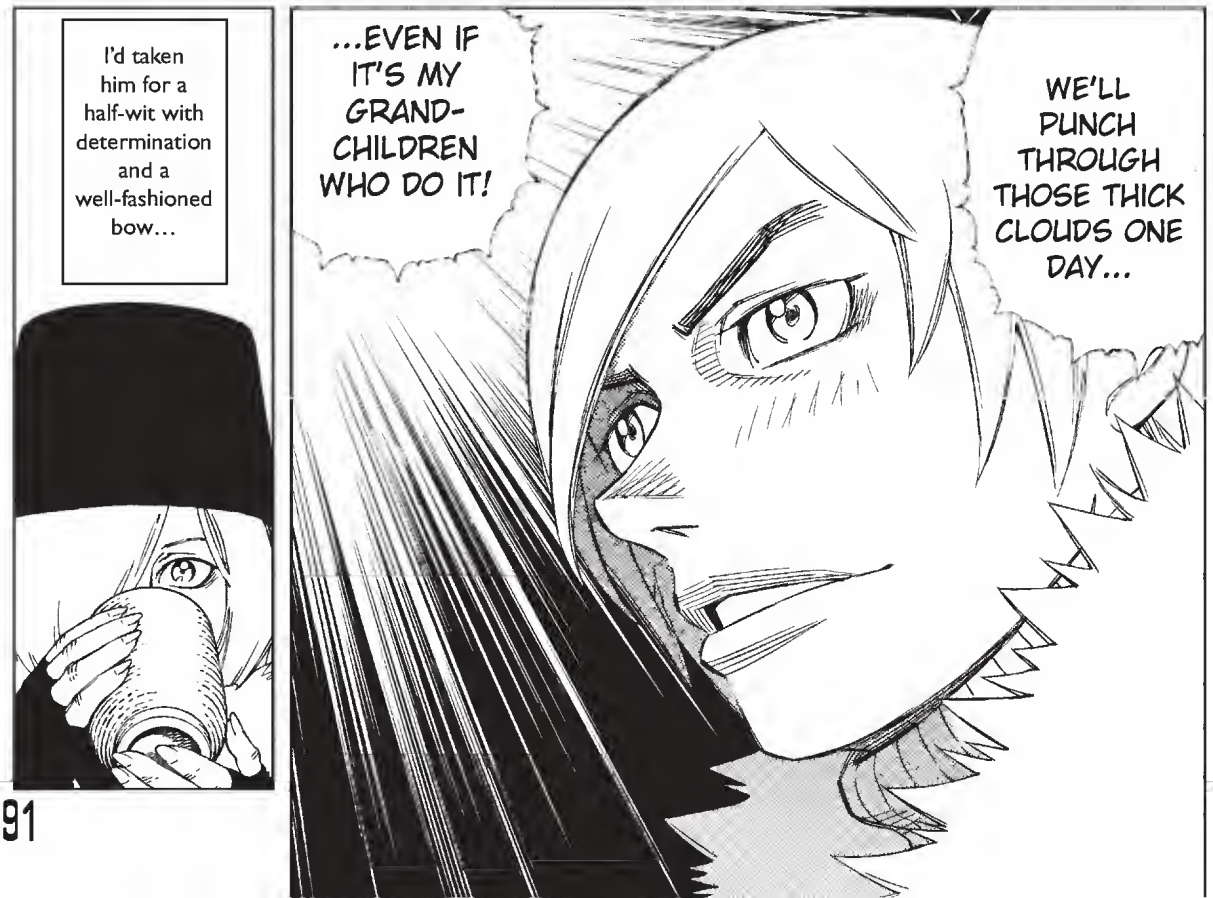

BUT IS THAT A FITTING ATTITUDE FOR THE LEADER OF SUCH A PROJECT?
I DON'T PROFESS TO KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT MYSELF...


WE MUSTN'T BECOME LIKE THEM!
MERLIN CAN REMAIN A USELESS MACHINE FOR ALL I CARE...


WHEN WE VENTURED OUT IN SEARCH OF MERLIN...WE FOUND MUTANT SAVAGES AT THE SITE.
MERLIN WAS THEIR *GOD*— AND RADHA ALMOST BECAME THEIR HUMAN SACRIFICE.

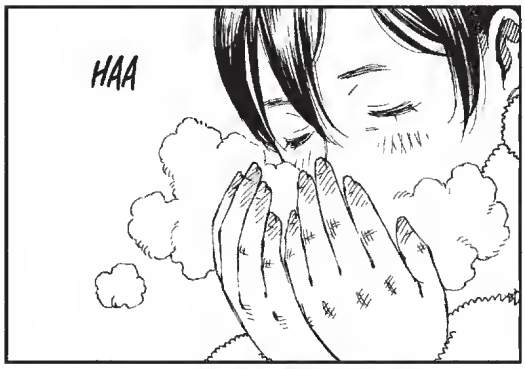
...FOR EVERYONE TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE!
...A USELESS MACHINE THAT PRATTLES ON ABOUT THE FUTURE!
MERLIN IS A SYMBOL, VILMA...

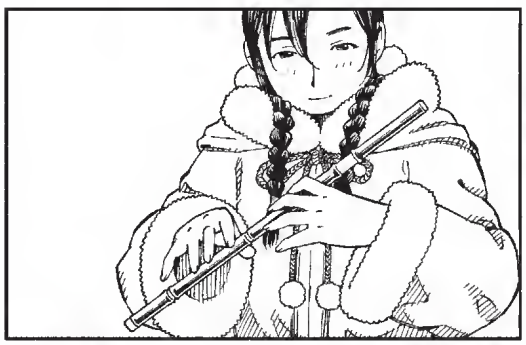

IN CAVES SO LONG, WE'VE LOST ALL AMBITION!
BUT LOOK AT US NOW!
BOOKS TELL US HOW PEOPLE USED TO FLY THE SKIES, EVEN TRAVEL INTO SPACE.

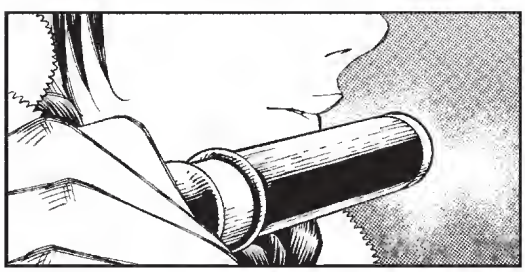

I'd taken him for a half-wit with determination and a well-fashioned bow...
...EVEN IF IT'S MY GRAND-CHILDREN WHO DO IT!
WE'LL PUNCH THROUGH THOSE THICK CLOUDS ONE DAY...

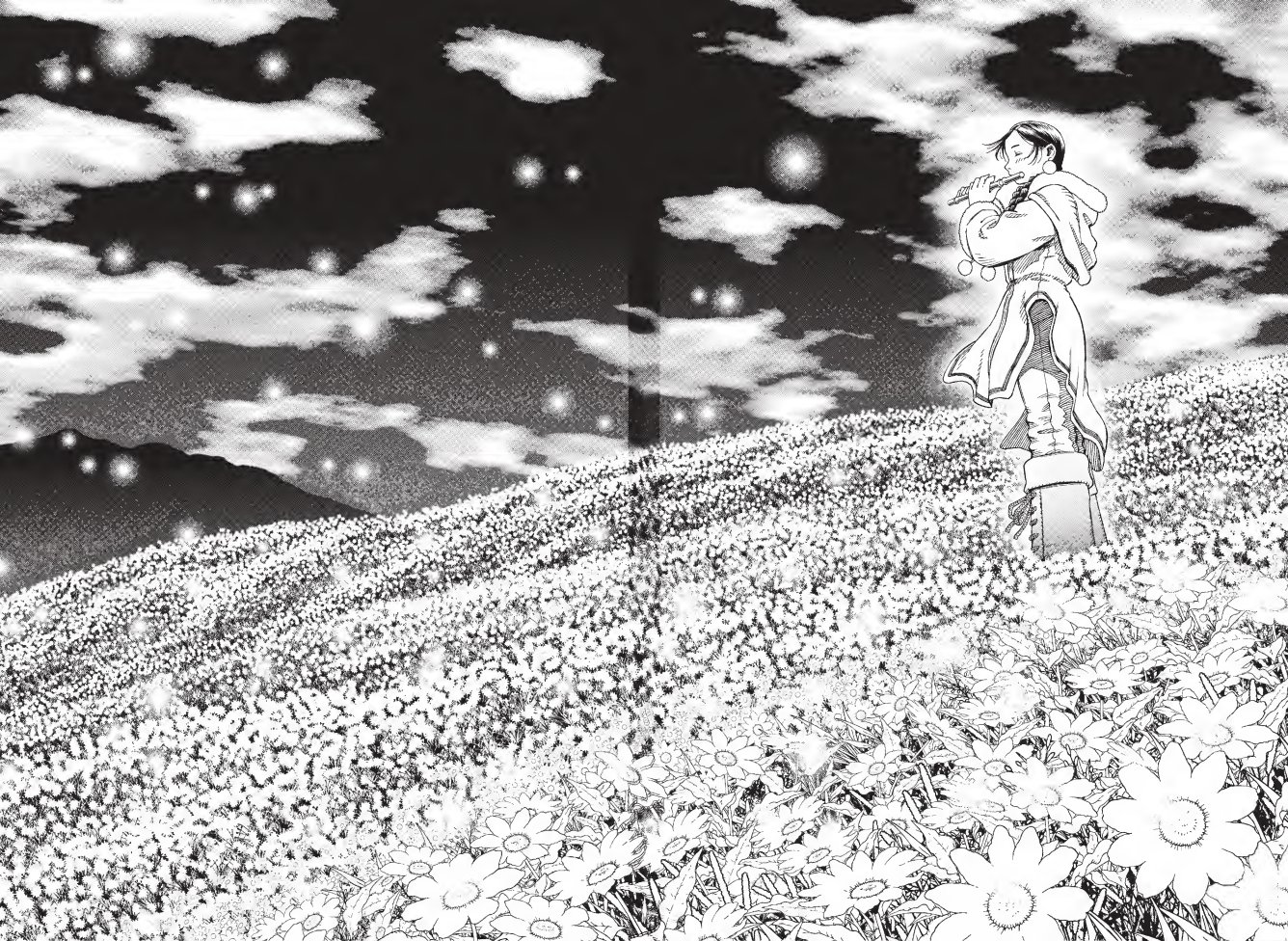
A mirror that reflects people's hopes and fears...

Yes, now I see...

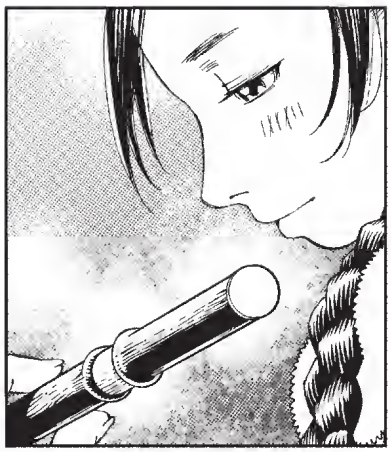


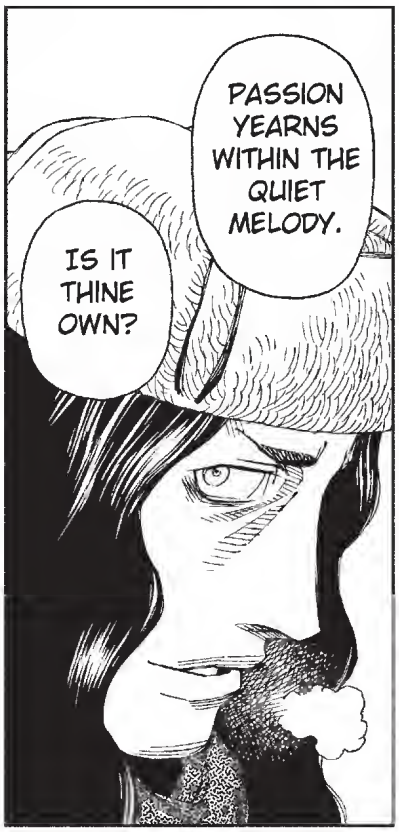


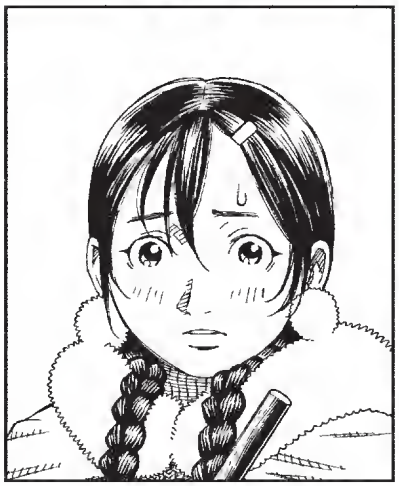




CLAP
CLAP
CLAP



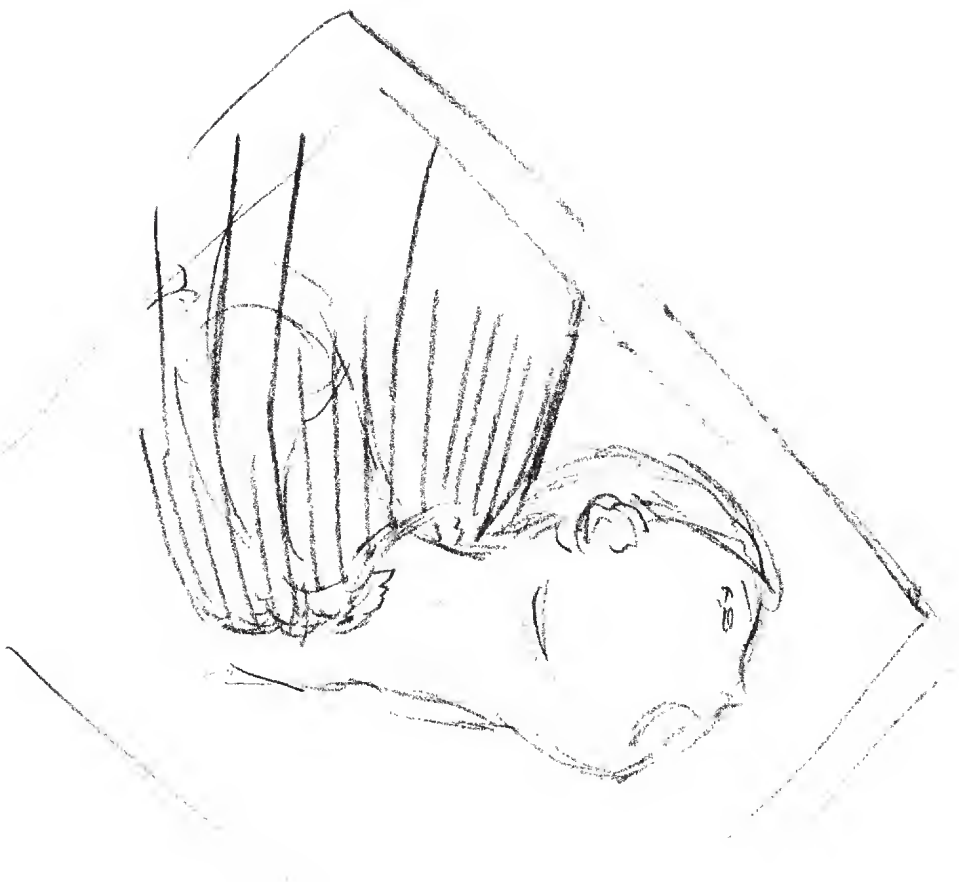

PASSION YEARNS WITHIN THE QUIET MELODY.
IS IT THINE OWN?



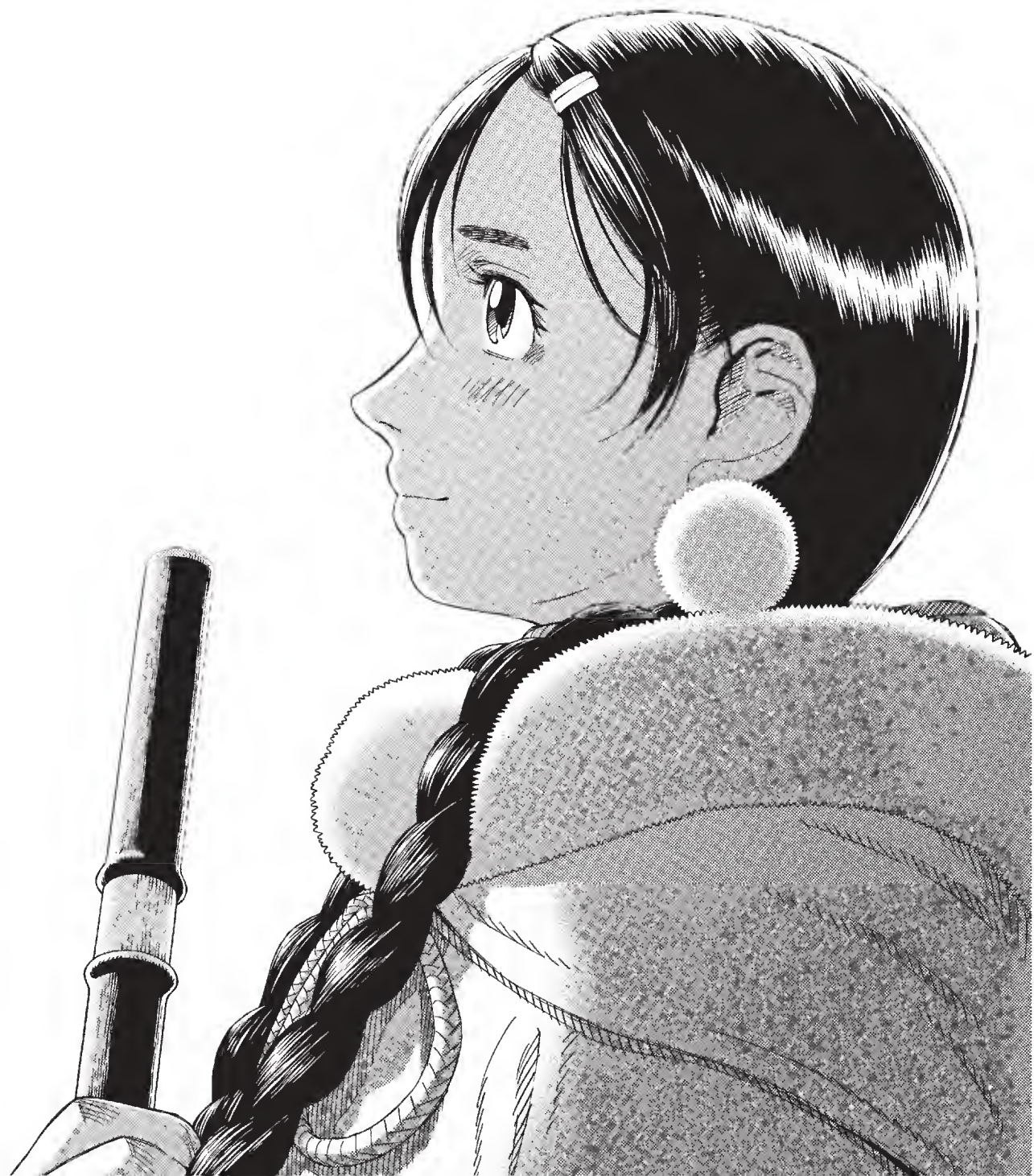
A FINE TUNE, THOUGH I KNOW IT NOT.

...EVERY-ONE WOULD BE SO HAPPY!
IF YOU'D BE FRIENDS WITH US...
YOU MUST BE VICTOR.
VILMA WORRIES SO MUCH OVER YOU.
ONLY SLITTING THE THROATS OF MEN AND INDULGING IN AN OCEAN OF THEIR *BLOOD* CAN SATISFY *ME!*
HAPPY? HEH...
HAS THIS INNOCENCE DECEIVED MY WIFE ONCE MORE?

BUT I SHALL OFFER THEE MERCY AS GRATITUDE FOR YOUR FLUTE'S SONG.
AH!
WHP
...THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE WILL BE BESTOWED UPON THEE.
IF THOU HAST THE GRACE OF THE DEVIL...
RIP!
NO...
STOP!

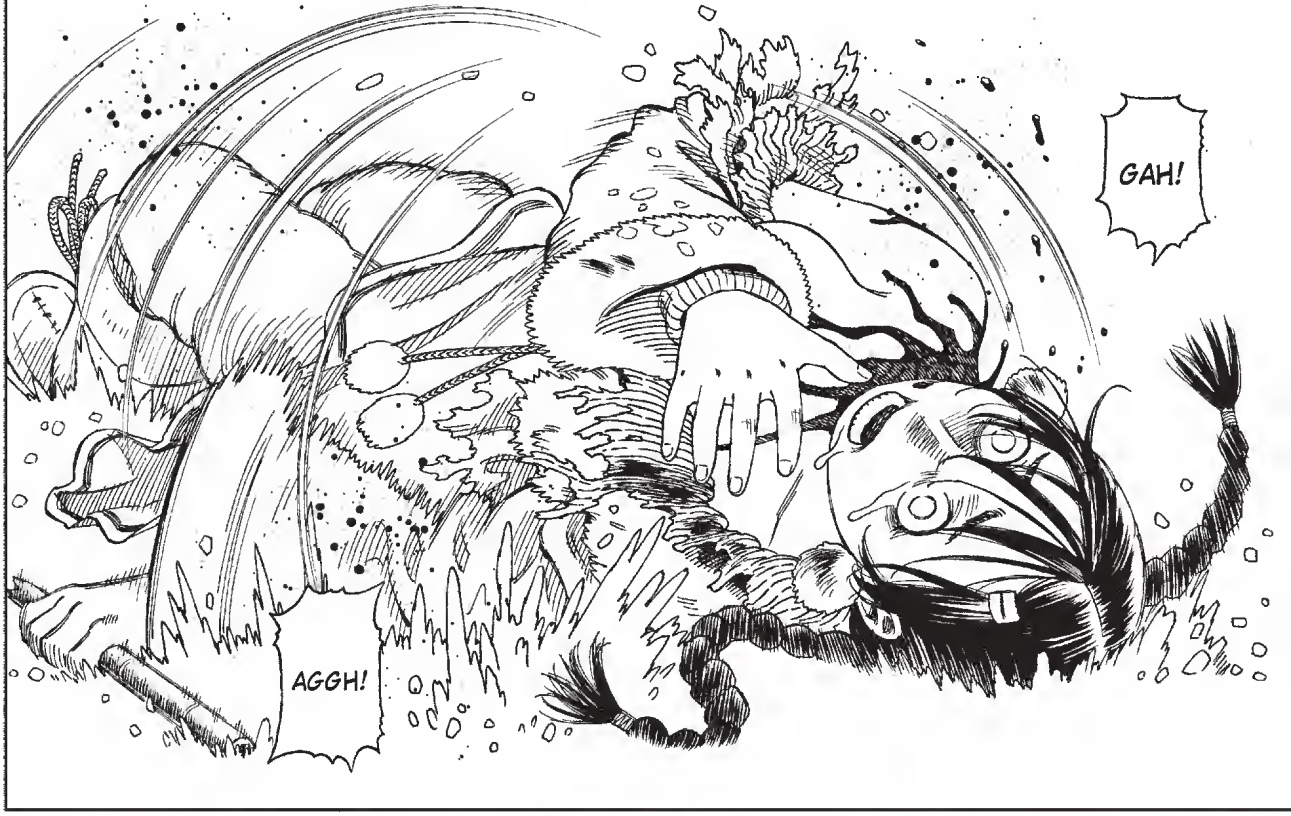


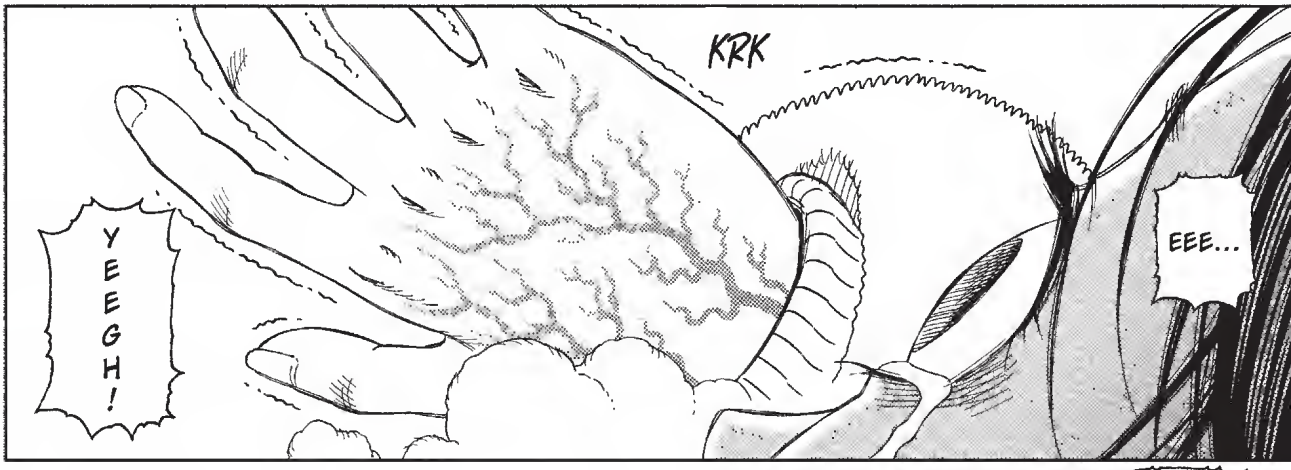
PHASE 50:
If Thy Soul



KA
K
REK
SPLAP
FWMF
UNH...
OH!

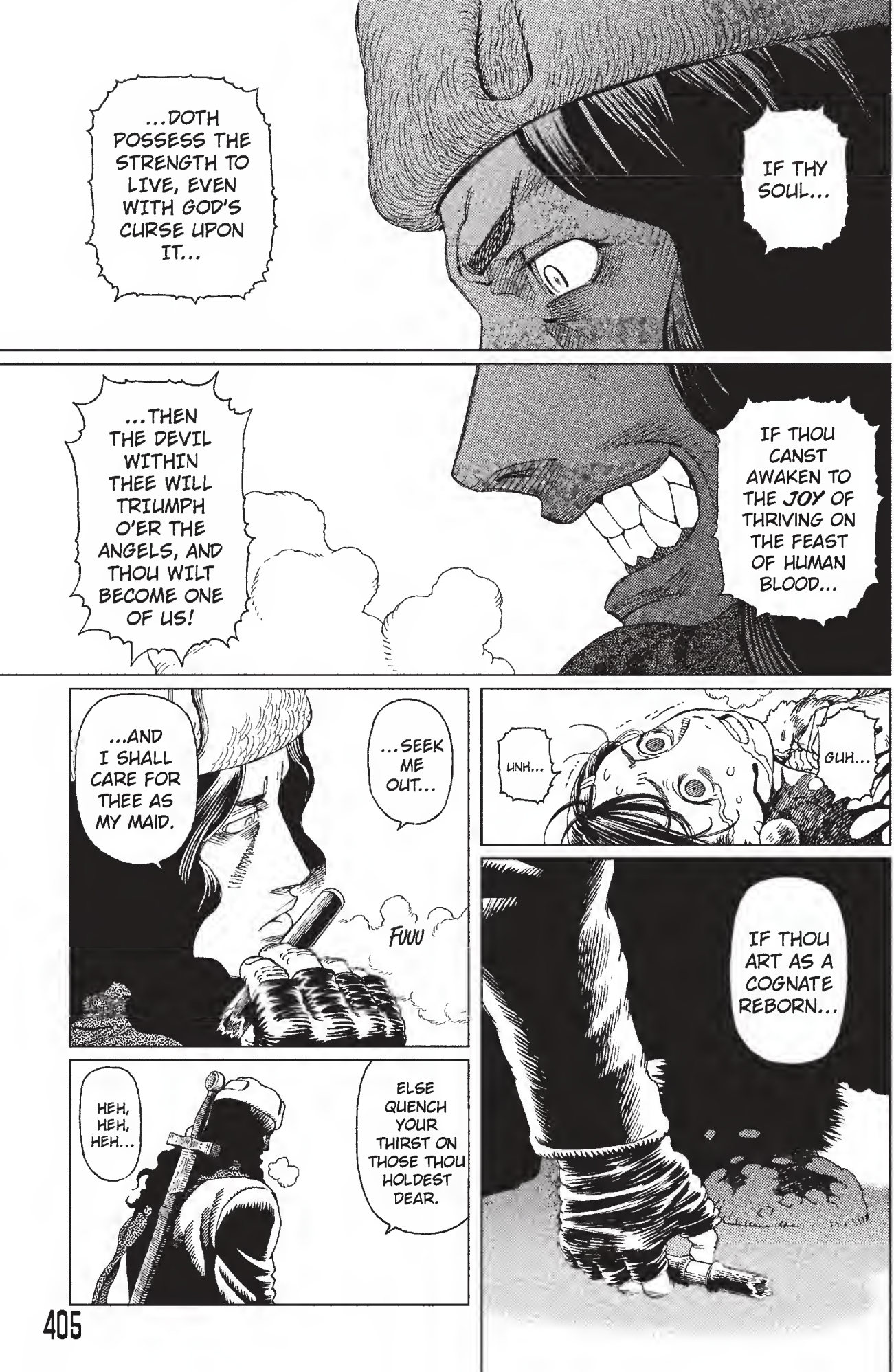
AH... SUCH SWEET BLOOD!
HFF
HFF
HFF
UNH...
SOB!
AH?!
I ALMOST LOST MYSELF AND BIT THROUGH THY SLENDER NECK...
HFF
HFF


GAH!
AGGH!

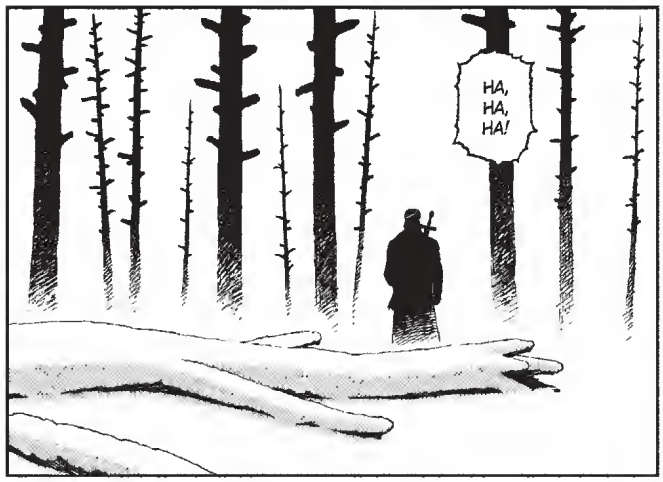

KRK
EEE...
YEEGH!

THAT IS THE CURSE OF MY BLOOD, WHICH NOW FLOWS THROUGH THY VEINS.
...JUST LIKE THE BIBLICAL WAR BETWIXT SATAN AND THE ANGELS!

THY BODY IS AT WAR WITH ITS OWN SELF...


...DOTH POSSESS THE STRENGTH TO LIVE, EVEN WITH GOD'S CURSE UPON IT...
IF THY SOUL...
...THEN THE DEVIL WITHIN THEE WILL TRIUMPH O'ER THE ANGELS, AND THOU WILT BECOME ONE OF US!
IF THOU CANST AWAKEN TO THE JOY OF THRIVING ON THE FEAST OF HUMAN BLOOD...
...AND I SHALL CARE FOR THEE AS MY MAID.
...SEEK ME OUT...
FUUU
UNH...
GUH...
IF THOU ART AS A COGNATE REBORN...
HEH, HEH, HEH...
ELSE QUENCH YOUR THIRST ON THOSE THOU HOLDEST DEAR.

...I MAY LEND THEE MINE EAR.


HA, HA, HA!

IF EVEN THEN...
...THOU CANST STILL SPOUT DRIVEL ABOUT HUMANS BE-FRIENDING THE COGNATE...

WUP
GAH...
AGH!
FWUP
N-NO...
HFF!
HFF!
...I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
HFF
I...
HFF
FWHF

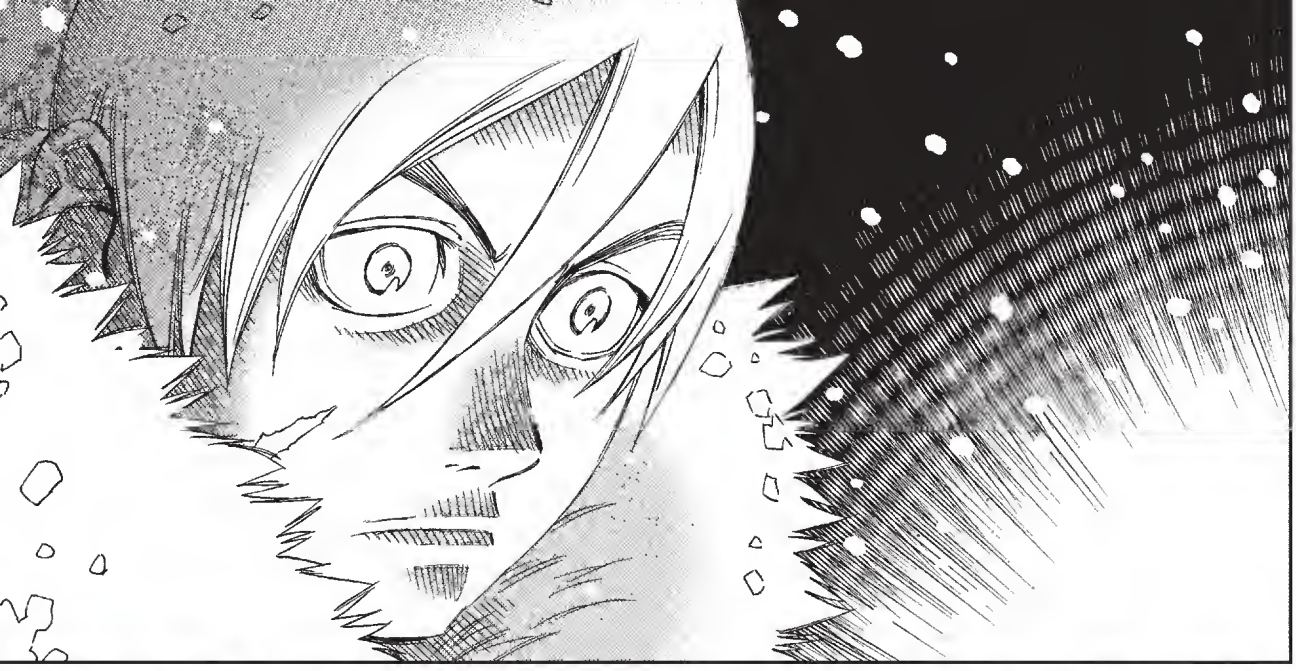
THE SURVIVAL RATE IS LESS THAN ONE PERCENT.
THE COGNATE CALL IT "ALTERED SHOCK."
HAVE TO LIVE...SO I CAN BEAR... ARTHUR'S BABY...
UFF
I... CAN'T DIE!
I HAVE TO... LIVE!
HFF
URP!
GRM!
AND...YOU CAN NEVER HAVE A CHILD.

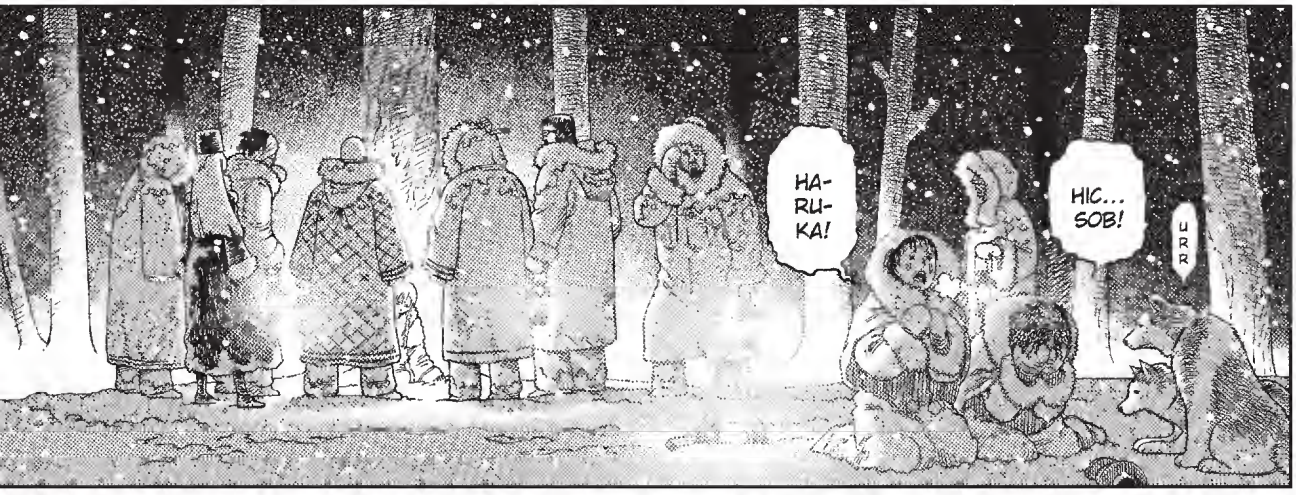
SPLAA
PLRP
AH...
ARTHUR...

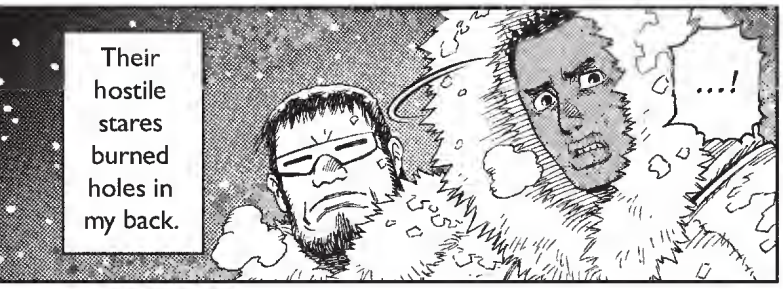
H...
HELP
ME...
...ARTHUR...

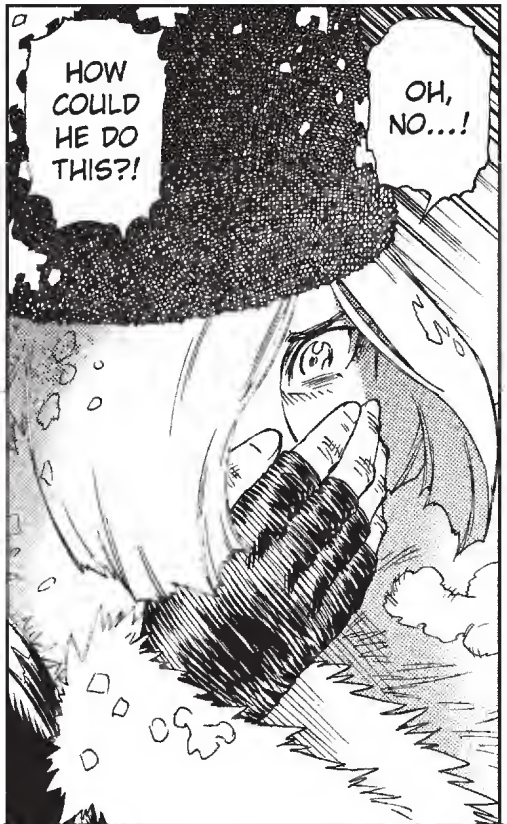
SHE'S NOT BACK YET!
AND IT'S NEAR NIGHT-FALL!
IT'S HARUKA! ARTHUR, HAVE YOU SEEN HER?!
WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?
THAT MUST BE IT!
SHE ASKED ME WHAT IT WAS LIKE... BEFORE THE CATASTRO-PHE...
...SAID IT WOULD INSPIRE HER MUSIC...
THAT FOOL! WE'RE AT WAR NOW! DAMN...!
SHE GETS HIGH-STRUNG WHEN SHE'S COMPOSING, SO SHE GOES TO THE SOUTHERN WOODS TO PRACTICE ALONE!
THIS SENSE OF DREAD...IN MY GUT...

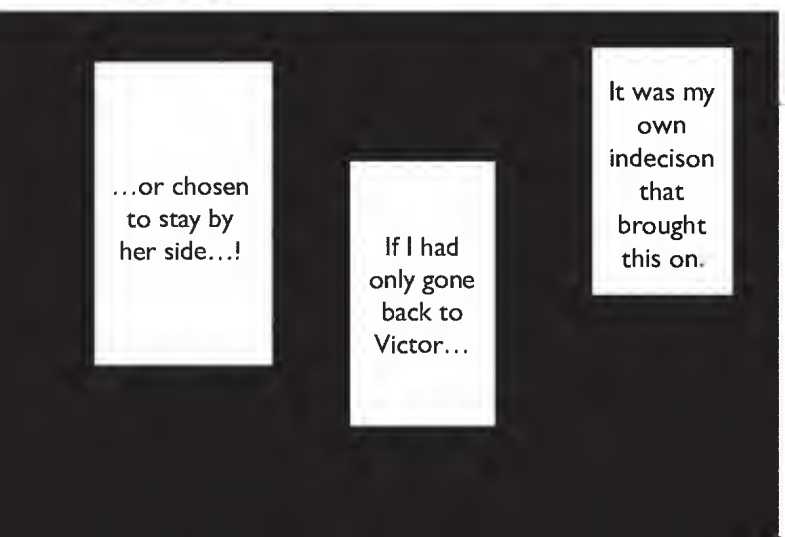
HEY!
HARUKA!
FOUND HER?
NO, NO... NOT YET!
ARF ARF
ARF ARF
ARF ARF
ARF ARF
AH!
ARTHUR!
SHAOO
IT'S COMING DOWN HARD NOW...
WE FOUND HER...
HA... HARUKA...




HA-
RU-
KA!
HIC...
SOB!
URR


Their hostile stares burned holes in my back.
...!


HOW COULD HE DO THIS?!
OH, NO...!


...or chosen to stay by her side...!
If I had only gone back to Victor...
It was my own indecison that brought this on.

WHERE'S THE OTHER PIECE OF YOUR FLUTE?
HM?
?!
HA, HA!
ART?
HARUKA, WHAT A SILLY GOOSE YOU ARE!
SO YOU WERE PRACTIC-ING YOUR FLUTE!
YOU GUYS, STOP GAWKING AND HELP ME FIND IT!
COME NOW, ART...
IS IT DOWN HERE?
DID YOU LOSE IT?
SHF
WF
WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU?!
WUMP
ARTHUR!

HUH?
DON'T YOU EVEN CARE ABOUT HER?!
HARUKA IS DEAD! MURDERED! SHE WAS YOUR FIANCÉE!
STOP IT!
...HOW MUCH SHE LOVED YOU!
YOU ALWAYS BRUSHED HER OFF! YOU DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA...
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS?!
HEY.
UH... OKAY.
SORRY... COULD YOU GIVE ME A MOMENT ALONE?
BANG

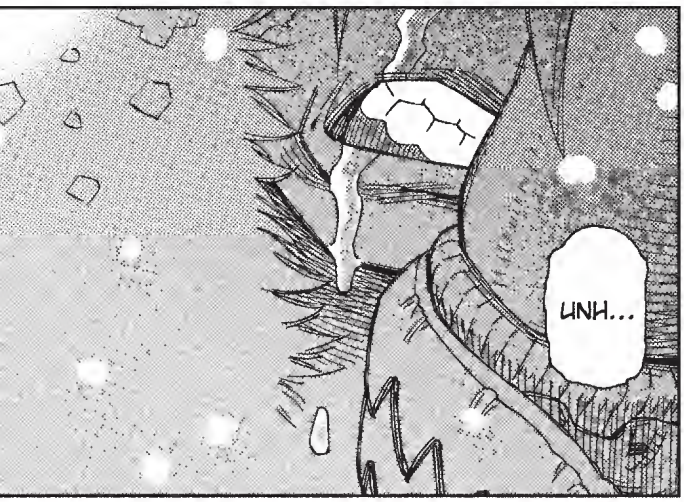
I WASN'T AS ATTENTIVE TO YOU AS YOU WANTED ME TO BE.
RADHA IS RIGHT ABOUT ME.

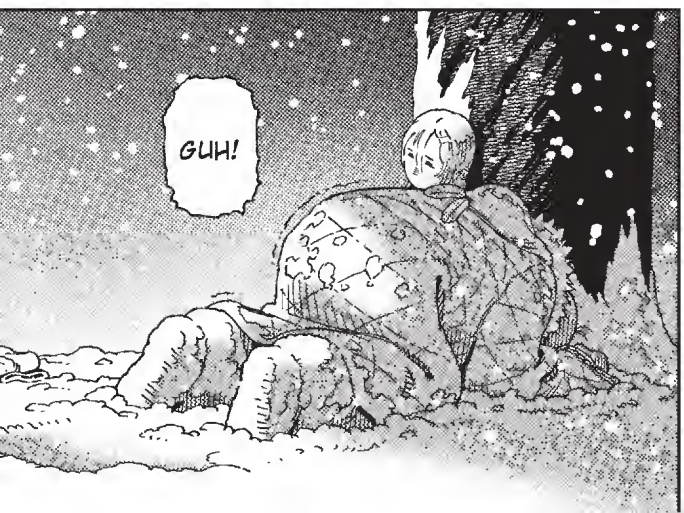
BUT I'LL TELL THE TRUTH...

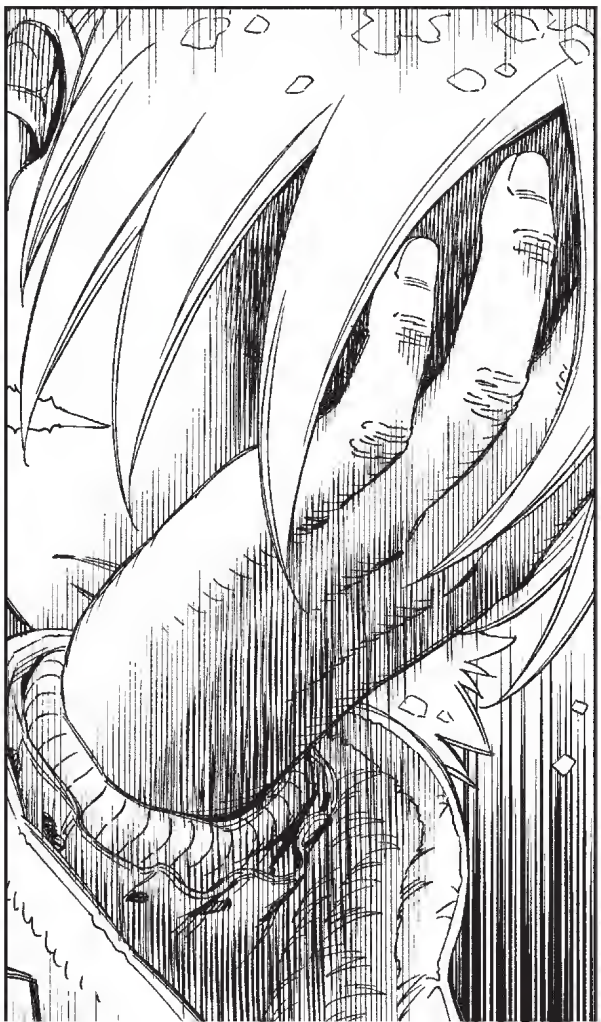
I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT.
YOU WERE THE ONLY WOMAN WHO COULD EVER BE MY WIFE.

I LOVED THE SOUND OF YOUR FLUTE.
NOT JUST AS MUSIC...
...BUT AS A PART OF YOU.
I PUT OFF THE WEDDING...
...TO GIVE ME TIME TO BECOME WORTHY OF YOU...
...TO BE A REAL MAN, WITH WORK WORTHY OF RESPECT.
I'M THE FOOL.
AND NOW IT'S TOO LATE.

IT MUST HAVE HURT YOU SO BAD...
...YOU MUST HAVE SUFFERED SO MUCH, HARUKA.


UNH...


GUH!

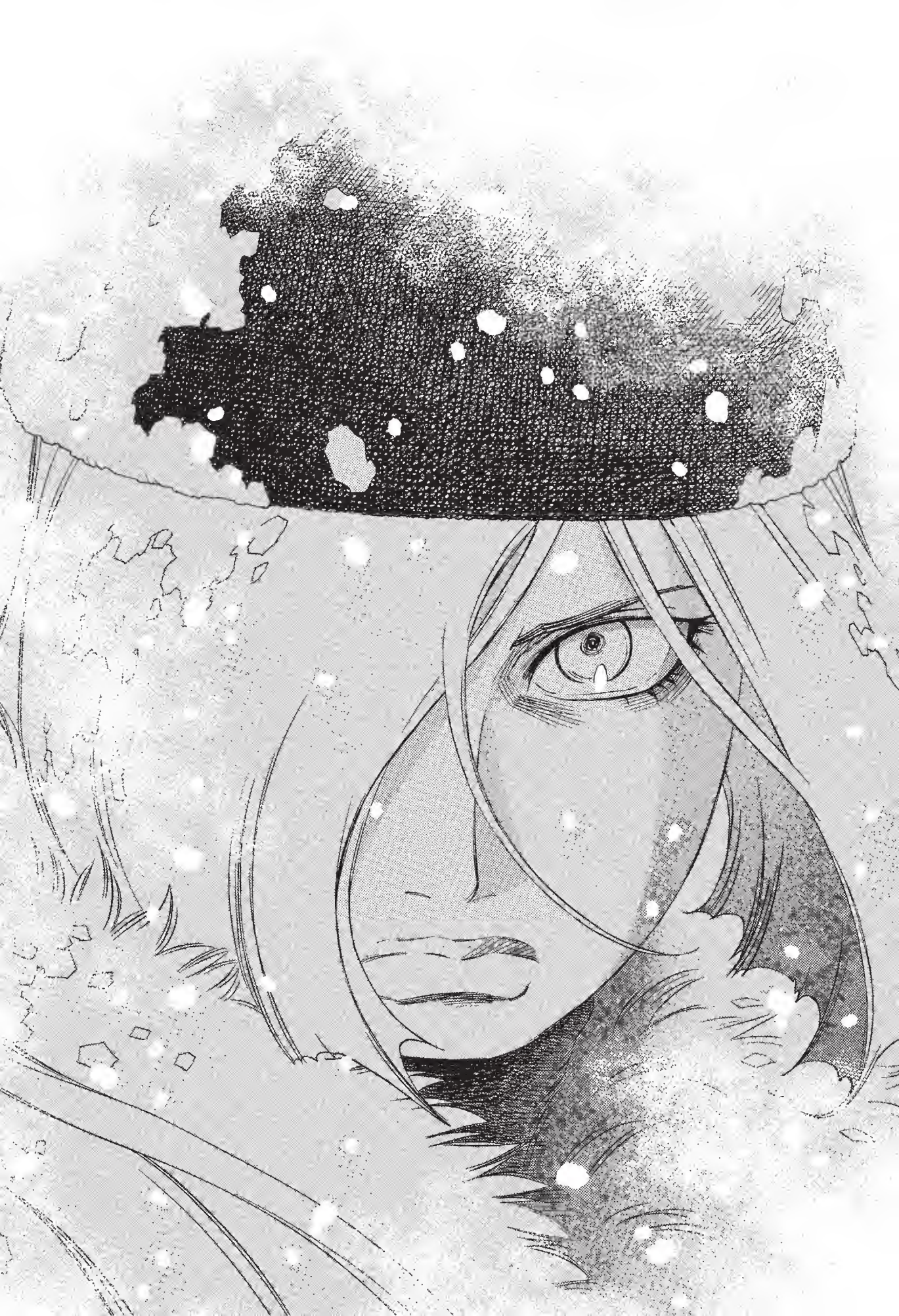


GAAAAAH

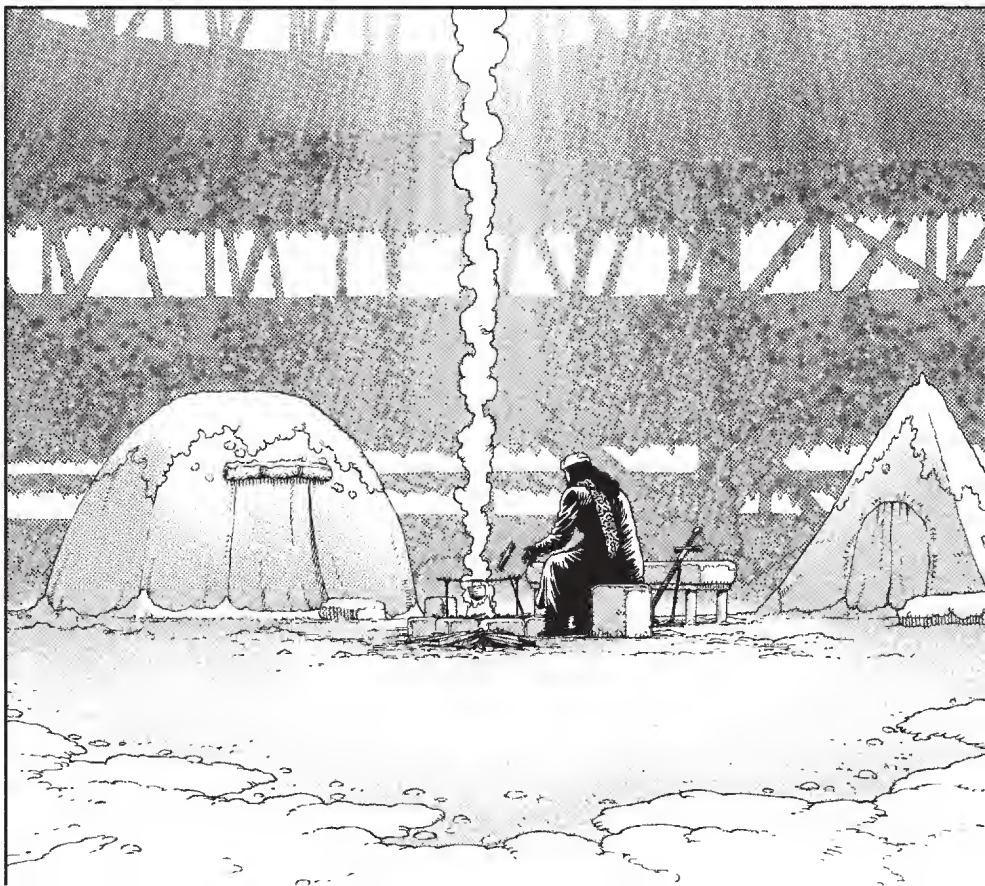
AAAAH...!

IT'S TOO LATE.
IT'S OVER.
THE PATH TO RECONCILIATION ...IS CLOSED.

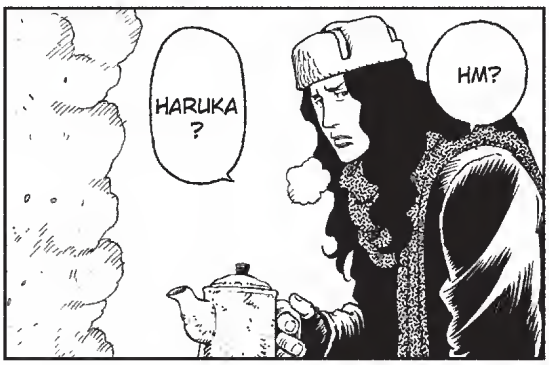
THERE IS ONLY ONE PATH FOR ME TAKE...
WOOO

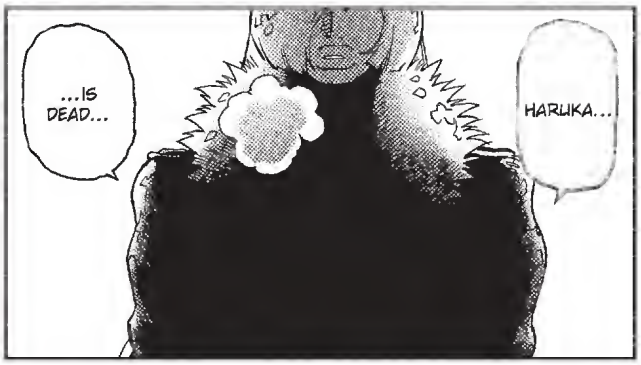


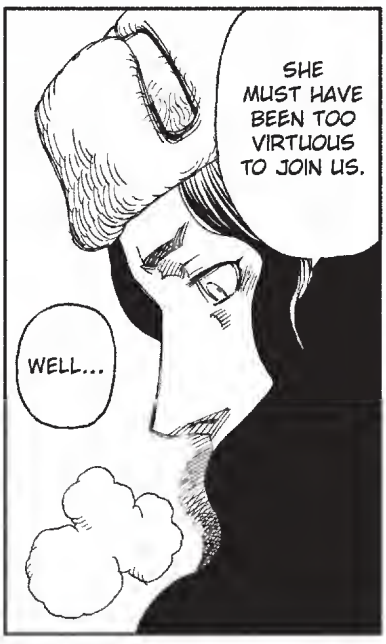
THOU HAST RETURNED.

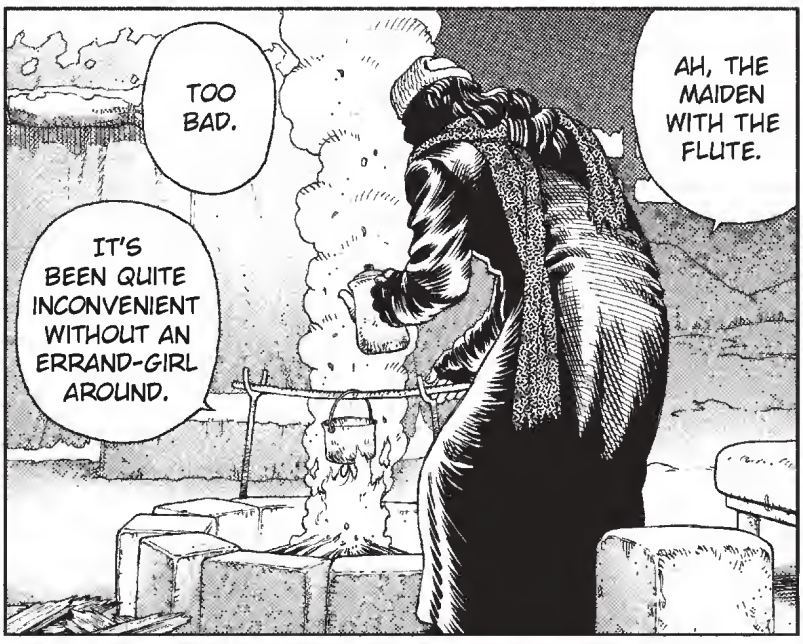


THOU MUST BE COLD. I'LL MAKE SOME HOT TEA.
IT'S ABOUT TIME...
...


HARUKA ?
HM?


...IS DEAD...
HARUKA...


SHE MUST HAVE BEEN TOO VIRTUOUS TO JOIN US.
WELL...


TOO BAD.
IT'S BEEN QUITE INCONVENIENT WITHOUT AN ERRAND-GIRL AROUND.
AH, THE MAIDEN WITH THE FLUTE.

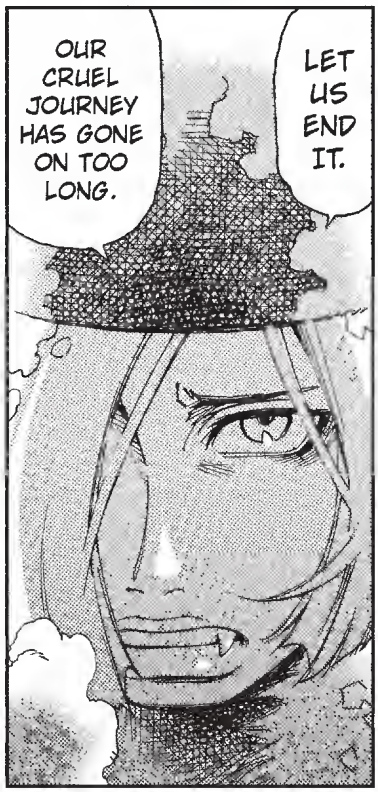
SO MANY LIVELY HUMANS IN THAT SHELTER... WE WON'T HAVE TO STAY BORED FOR LONG.
...KILLING HER WAS JUST A BIT OF FUN TO PASS THE TIME.
SHP
I LOVE YOU...
... VICTOR.

THUK

PHASE 51:
Until the Day of Judgment

KA-TAK
DID I MISS HIS VITALS ?!
SHLUP
FSHT
GYA...
A
A
A
AH

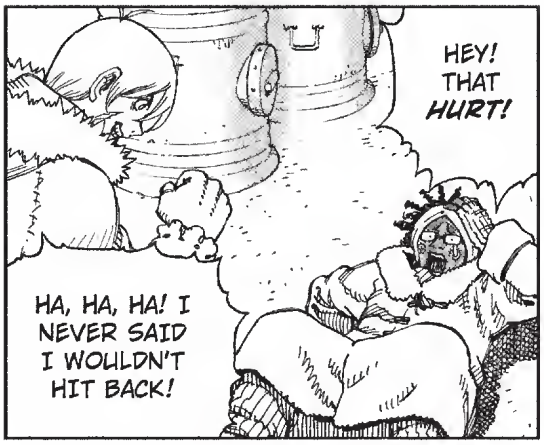
THUK
!
WH...


LET US END IT.
OUR CRUEL JOURNEY HAS GONE ON TOO LONG.

VILMA! WHY DIDST THOU...
...BUT WHY...?!
AHHH

shk
shk
ARTHUR...IS IT REVENGE THAT YOU'RE AFTER?
krrk
krrk

GO ON... HIT ME.
HIT ME.
...I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I SAID...
LOOK... ABOUT LAST NIGHT...
ARE YOU REALLY SORRY? IF YOU ARE, THEN PROVE IT...
YOU WERE JEALOUS, WEREN'T YOU?
YOU LOVED HARUKA, DIDN'T YOU?
HIT ME.
WHAT? WHY?! WHAT-EVER FOR?!
FWAP
URK...


HEY! THAT HURT!
HA, HA, HA! I NEVER SAID I WOULDN'T HIT BACK!

KA POW

LET'S DO IT!
COME AT ME!

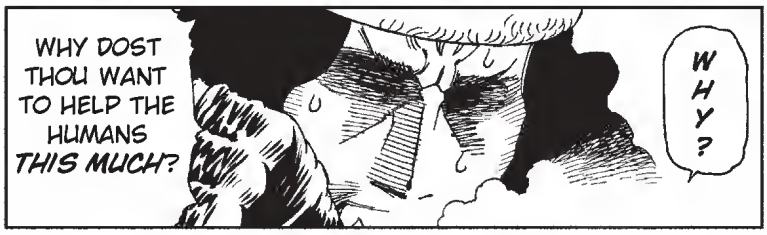
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
...I'VE BEEN SITTING HERE... SCARED OUT OF MY WITS.

PHEW! I'M MUCH MORE RELAXED NOW... THANKS, RADHA.
OW...

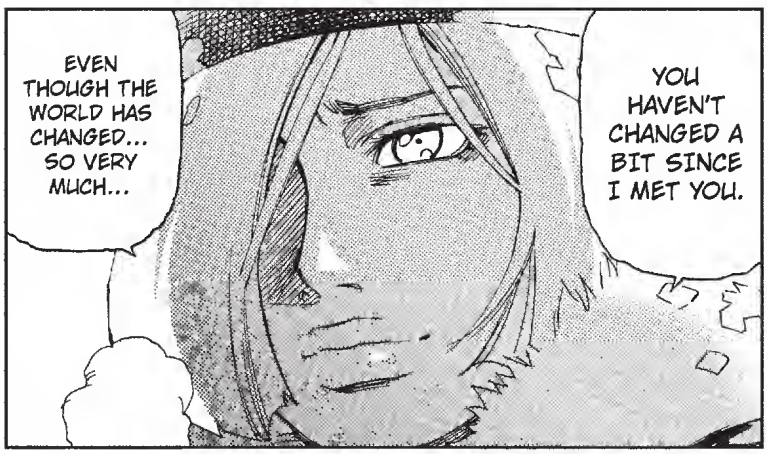
UFF!
HFF!
HA, HA, HA...

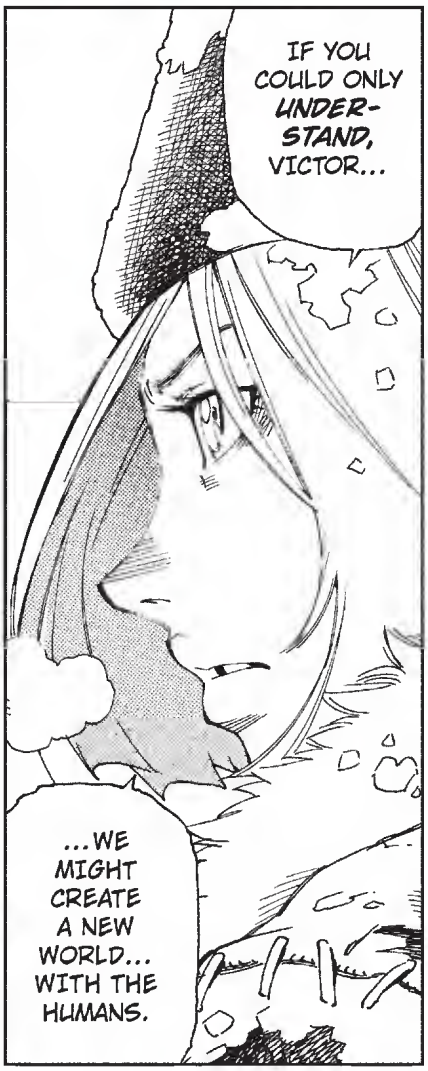
I DON'T SEE MY ARROWS DOING MUCH GOOD...NOT AGAINST SOMEONE WHO CAN SWAT DOWN BULLETS.
VILMA'S BEEN MISSING SINCE LAST NIGHT.
WORST CASE, WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT HER, TOO.
HARUKA WOULD'VE BEEN SO ASHAMED.
PITIFUL... THAT'S WHAT I AM.
ARTHUR! RADHA! COME HERE!
IT'S MERLIN ...!
?!
BUT IT WON'T WORK THIS TIME.
I JUST HAVE TO DO WHAT I CAN! NOTHING ELSE TO IT.
DIDN'T YOU WRAP YOURSELF IN DYNAMITE, AND-
THEN HOW DID YOU KILL ONE BEFORE ?!
THE GRENADE WAS EMPTY TOO.
OH, YEAH, THAT...
...JUST PAPER TUBES.
YEAH... HEH! THAT'S RIGHT! HA, HA!
HA, HA, HA, HA! YOU MEAN IT WAS ALL A TRICK? WOW!

I HAD SUCH HOPE!


WHY DOST THOU WANT TO HELP THE HUMANS *THIS MUCH*?
WHY?

WHY DOST THOU NOT UNDER-STAND?!
WE ARE THE WOLVES WHO *HUNT* THE LAMBS!


EVEN THOUGH THE WORLD HAS CHANGED... SO VERY MUCH...
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT SINCE I MET YOU.

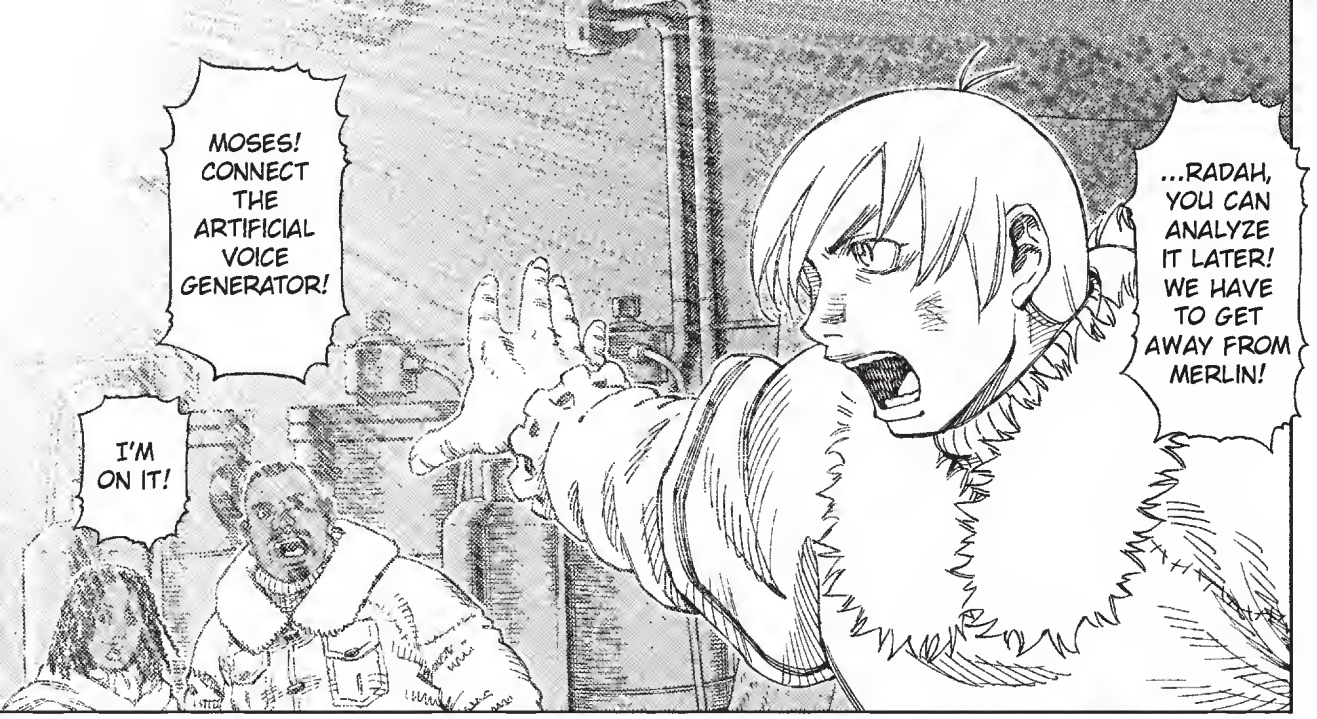

IF YOU COULD ONLY *UNDER-STAND*, VICTOR...
...WE MIGHT CREATE A NEW WORLD... WITH THE HUMANS.

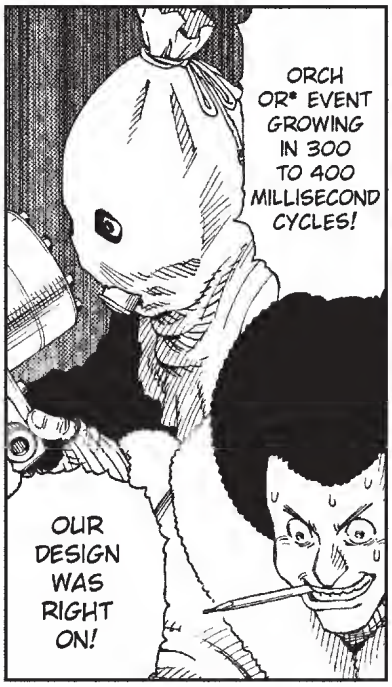
WHAM
AH!
GAK!
RK
RK
RK
SK
...YET THOU WOULDST STILL CHOOSE THOSE RIFF-RAFF OVER ME...?
I...
...I LOVE THEE SO MUCH...
WMP

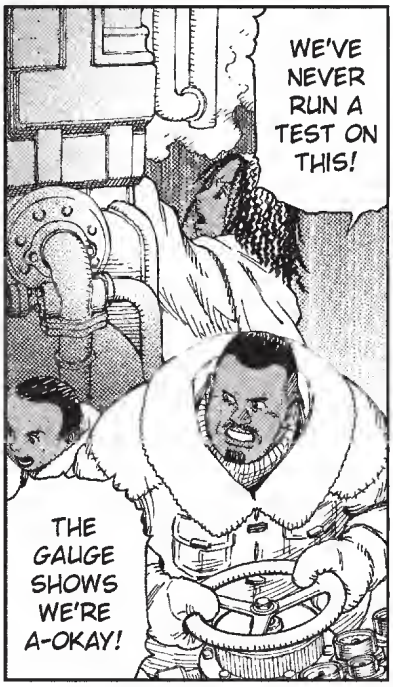
CANST THOU FATHOM SUCH SADNESS?
SO SAD...
p/p p/p
AND AFTER I KILL YOU...
...I'LL SOON JOIN YOU.
CHA
THE END THAT IS TO COME CENTURIES FROM NOW...
...WILL COME FOR YOU ON THIS DAY.
TMP TMP

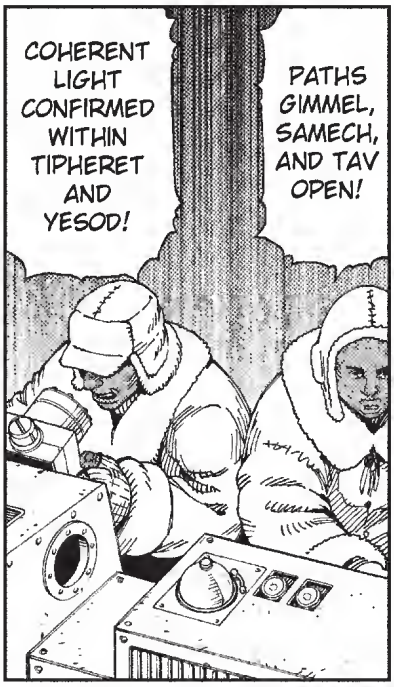
FWSHT

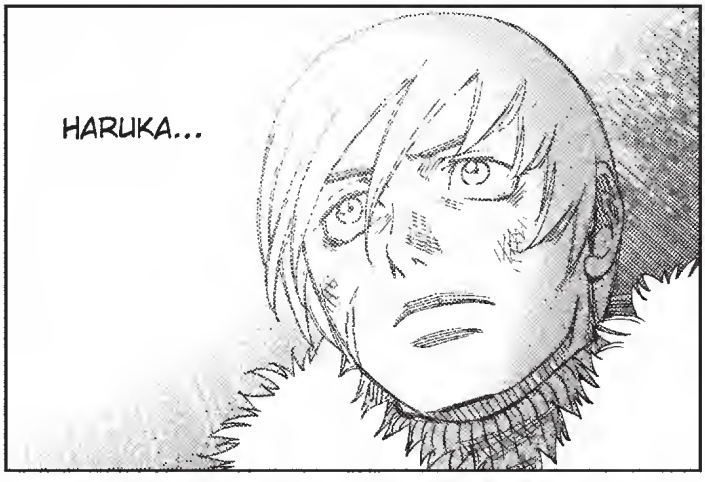
ZAP!
ZOT!
YMMMMM
NOT SURE WHAT SET ALL THIS OFF.
QUANTUM VIBRATIONS IN THE MICRO-TUBULES.
SO WHAT IS IT?
WHA... WHAT THE HELL?!
IDIOTS... THAT'S ALL NONSENSE!
IS MERLIN... GRIEVING THE LOSS OF HARUKA?
NO! MERLIN HAS BEEN POSSESSED BY HER SOUL!
THE REBOOT EXPERI-MENT IS STILL MONTHS AWAY...!

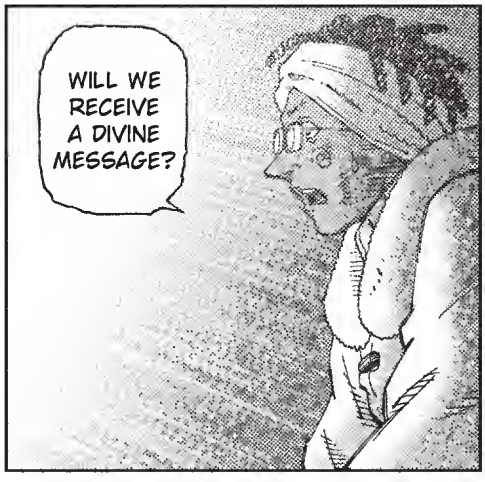






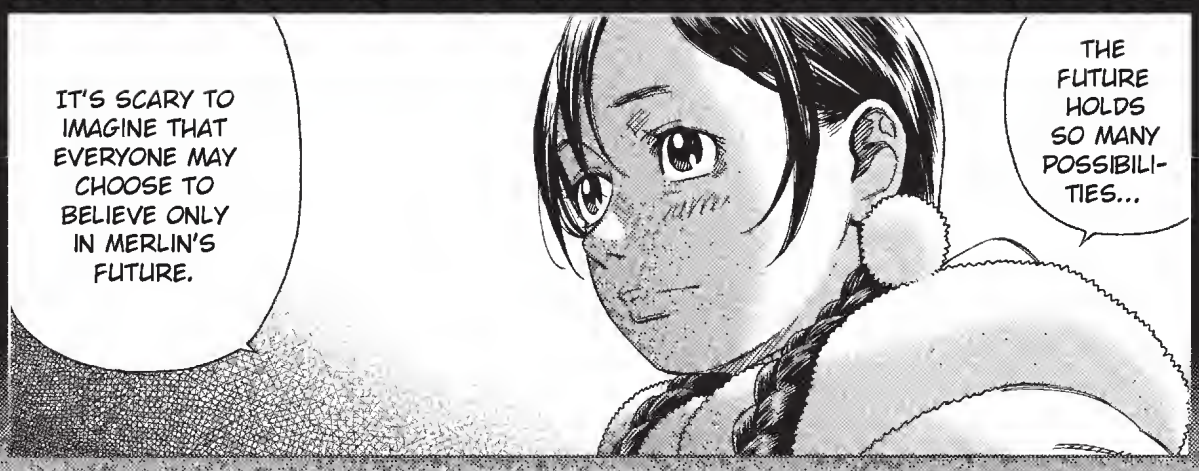






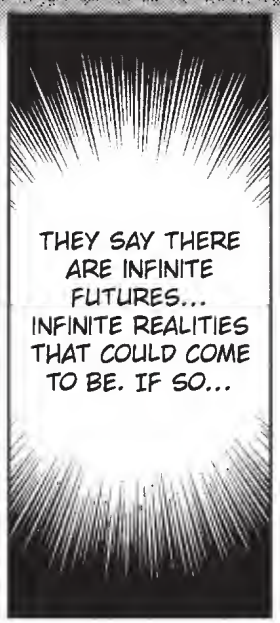
***Orch OR**: Orchestrated Objective Reduction. A theory put forth by Roger Penrose that uses the quantum gravity theory to explain consciousness.*

IT'S KIND OF SCARY...


IT'S SCARY TO IMAGINE THAT EVERYONE MAY CHOOSE TO BELIEVE ONLY IN MERLIN'S FUTURE.
THE FUTURE HOLDS SO MANY POSSIBILI-TIES...

...I'M IN A TIMELINE WITHOUT HER!
WHATEVER. RIGHT NOW...

...WHERE WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT BYRON?
...IS THERE A WORLD IN WHICH HARUKA DIDN'T HAVE TO DIE...


THEY SAY THERE ARE INFINITE FUTURES... INFINITE REALITIES THAT COULD COME TO BE. IF SO...

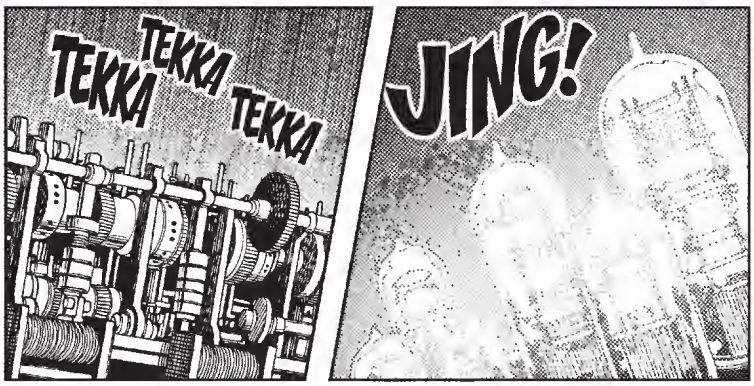
SEIZE THE PROOF THAT WE'LL SURVIVE...
MERLIN! SHOW ME WHAT I NEED!
...FROM BEHIND THE VEIL OF MYSTIC NIGHT!
...AND GRANT TO US A WORD OF HOPE...
...OR FACE MY WRATH!
TELL US WHAT WE WANT TO HEAR...

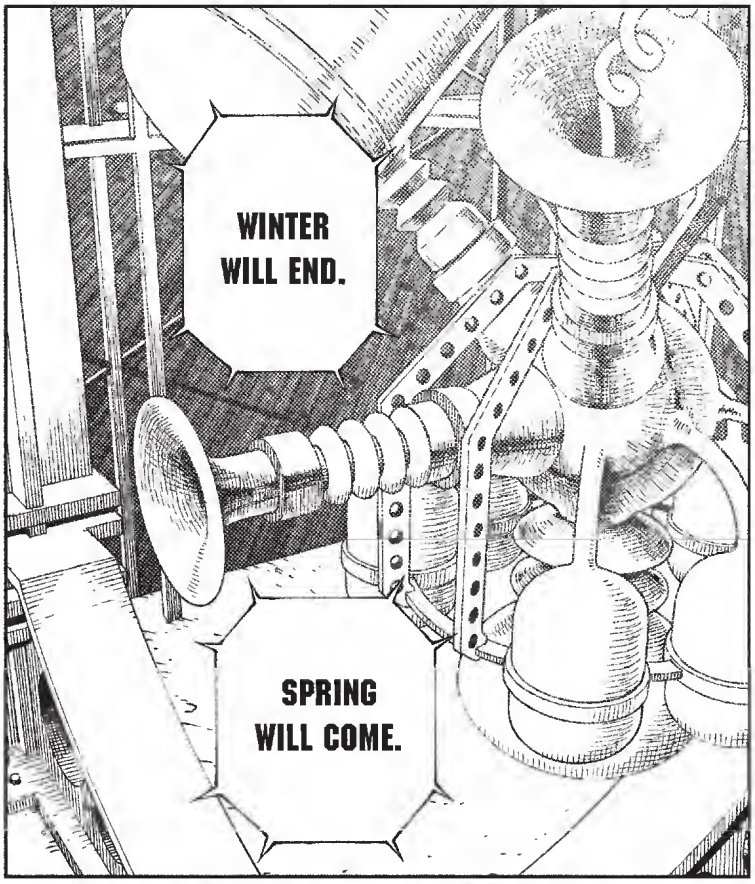
?!
TNK
TNG
TNG
KA
TANG!
NO.
SWUP
THE END...?

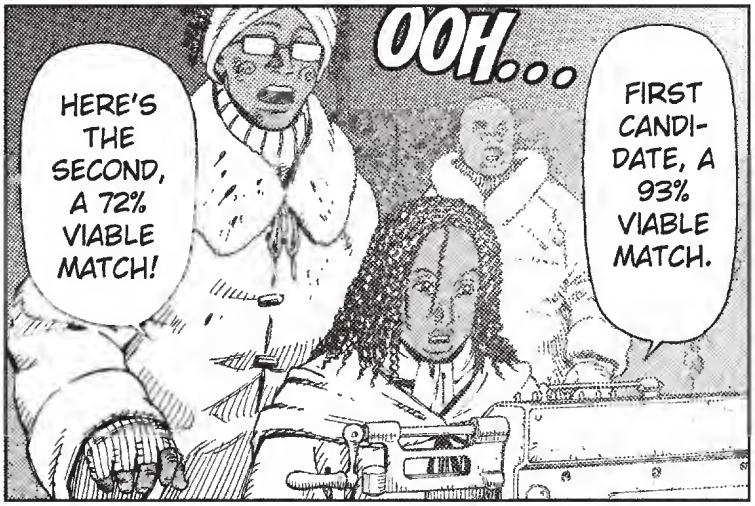
THE END TIMES WILL NOT PASS...
...WHILE THEY LIVE LIVES OF EASE!
HAAAAH
HFFF
UF
HUMANITY STILL LIVES.
THUK
UNH!

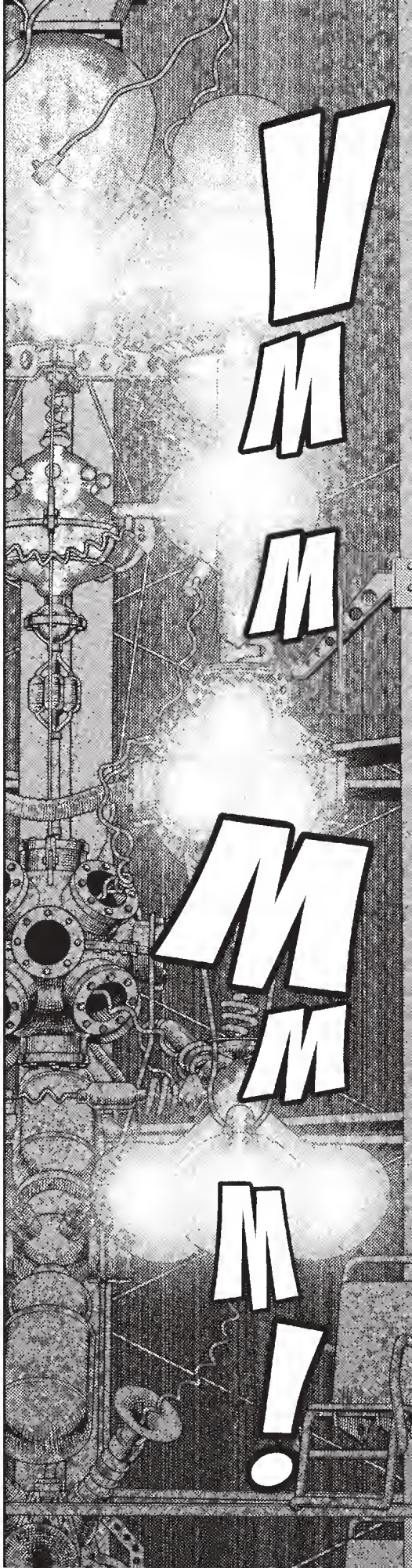
MY BLADE... IT WON'T PENETRATE!
ZWA NG
WHAM

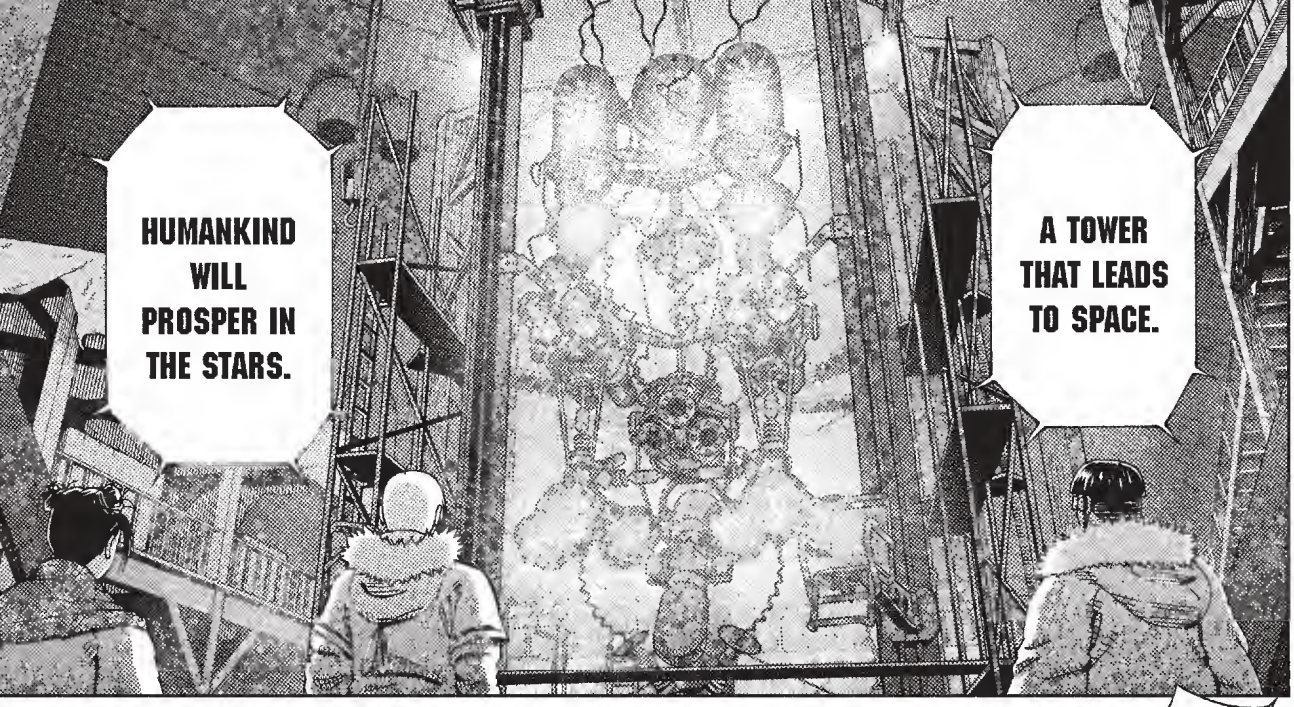
NO
OH!


TEKKA
TEKKA
TEKKA
JING!

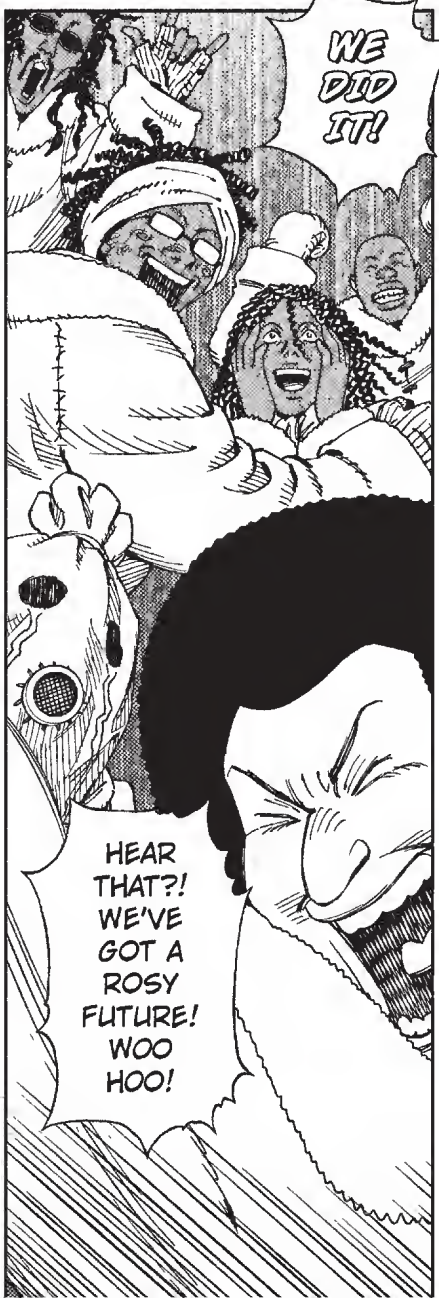

WINTER WILL END.
SPRING WILL COME.

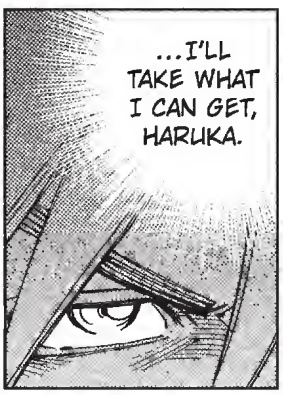

OOH...
HERE'S THE SECOND, A 72% VIABLE MATCH!
FIRST CANDI-DATE, A 93% VIABLE MATCH.

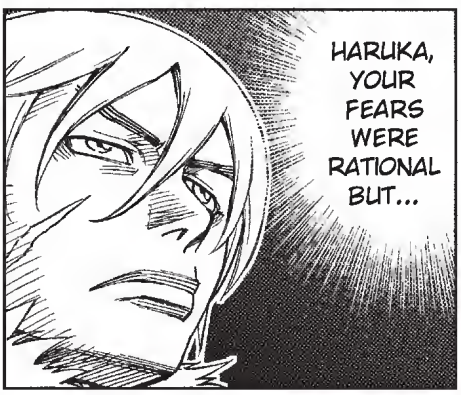

I M M M M!


HUMANKIND WILL PROSPER IN THE STARS.
A TOWER THAT LEADS TO SPACE.

YAAY!


WE DID IT!
HEAR THAT?! WE'VE GOT A ROSY FUTURE! WOO HOO!


...I'LL TAKE WHAT I CAN GET, HARUKA.


HARUKA, YOUR FEARS WERE RATIONAL BUT...

RELAY THE PROPHECY TO THE ENTIRE SHELTER!

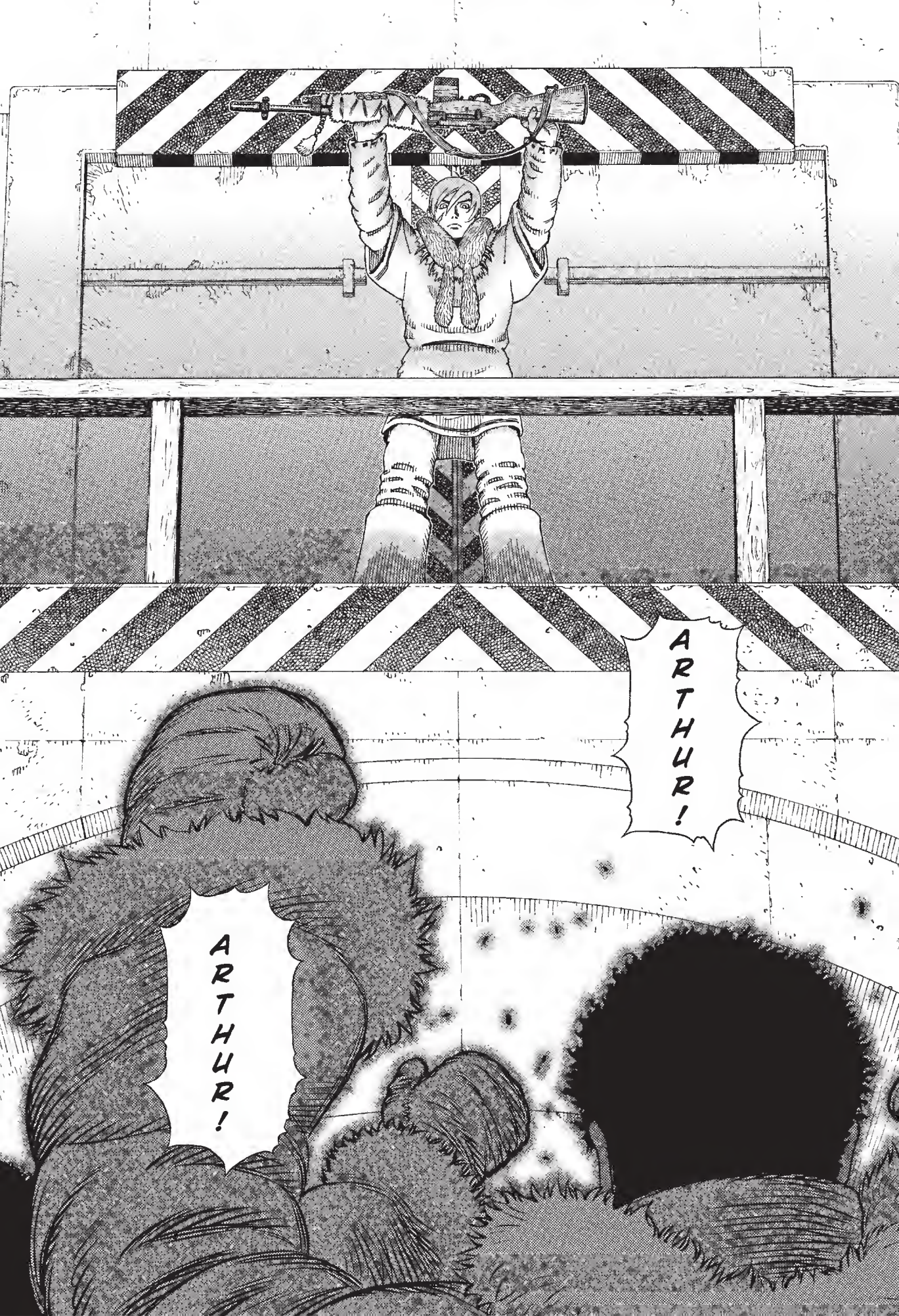
WE WILL PREVAIL!

OVER WINTER ...
...AND THE VAMPIRES!

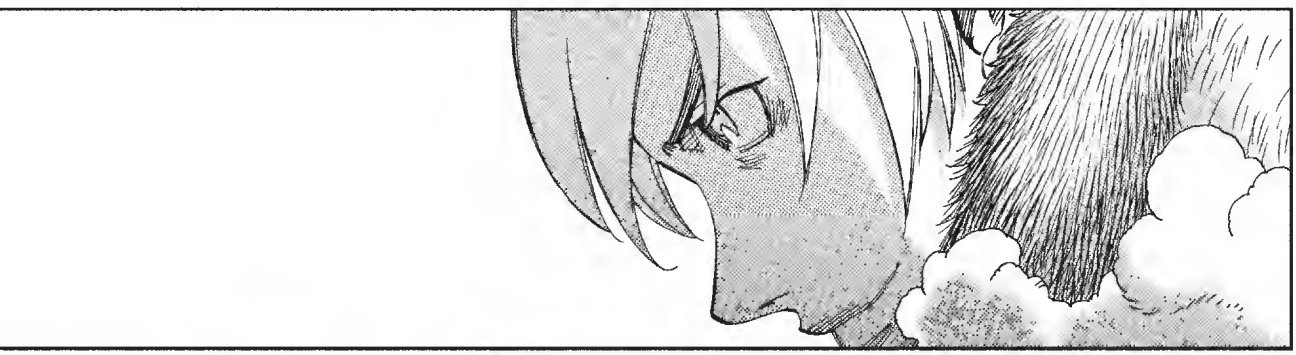
OOOOH!
THEY'LL PAY FOR HARUKA!
WE'RE WITH YOU, ARTHUR!

RAAAH

IT'S TIME...
IT'S NOT JUST MERLIN... ARTHUR'S WORDS, HIS PASSION, HAVE LIT A FIRE IN THEIR SOULS.
HE'S LIFTED THE SHELTER OUT OF ITS MALAISE.
YAAY!
...SO DON'T GET YOURSELF KILLED!
THIS IS NOW YOUR DUTY...
...FOR ME TO STEP DOWN.
YOU, ART...
YOU ARE NOW THE LEADER OF THE BRADLEY SHELTER! PROTECT THEM. NURTURE THEM.


ARTHUR!
ARTHUR!

URF
URF
ARF
ARF
URF
URF
URF

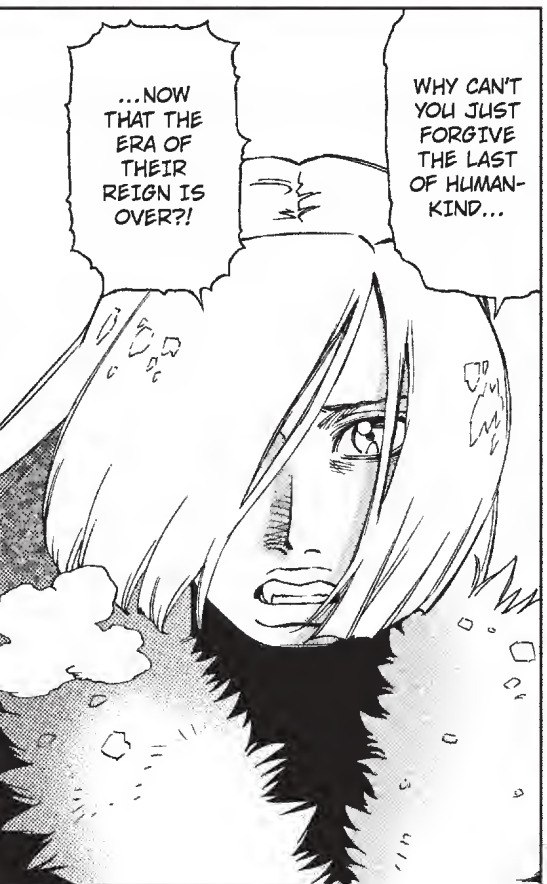


WE'LL SEE.
YES... BUT NO ONE CAN STOP THIS PROCESS NOW.

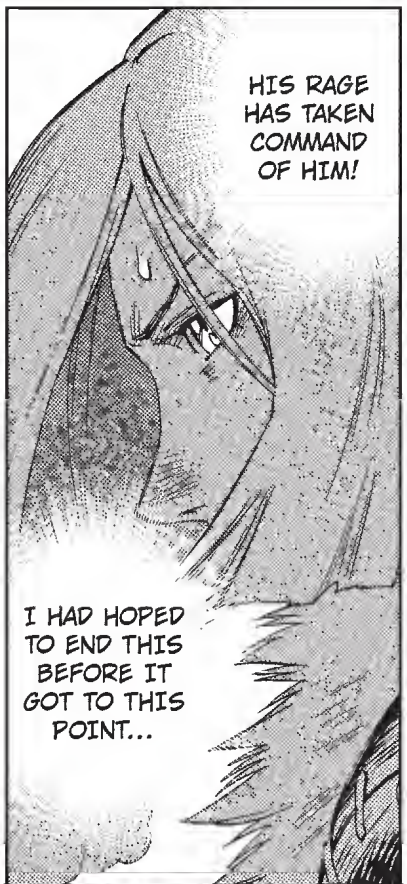
HARUKA'S DEATH CHANGED A HOT-BLOODED YOUTH INTO A LEADER CAPABLE OF UNITING US ALL.
HE'S A NEW MAN OVERNIGHT, OUR ART...

FOOM
SLAMASH
SHKSHH
I'M GOING TO THE SHELTER TO KILL EVERY LAST HUMAN INSIDE.
KRESH

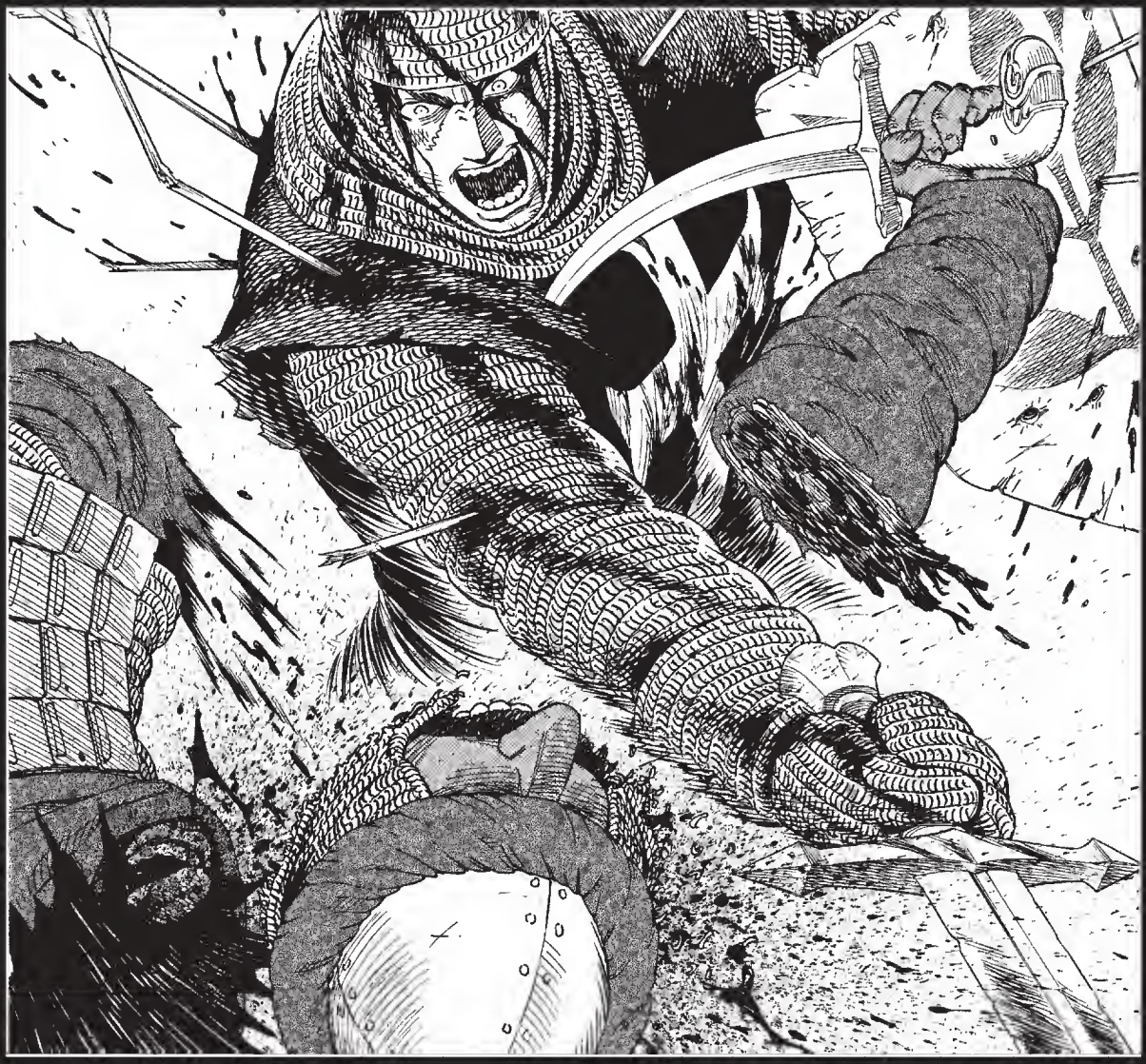
COME WITH ME TO THE SLAUGHTER!
ONLY THEN SHALL I FORGET THY THOUGHTLESS REMARKS!

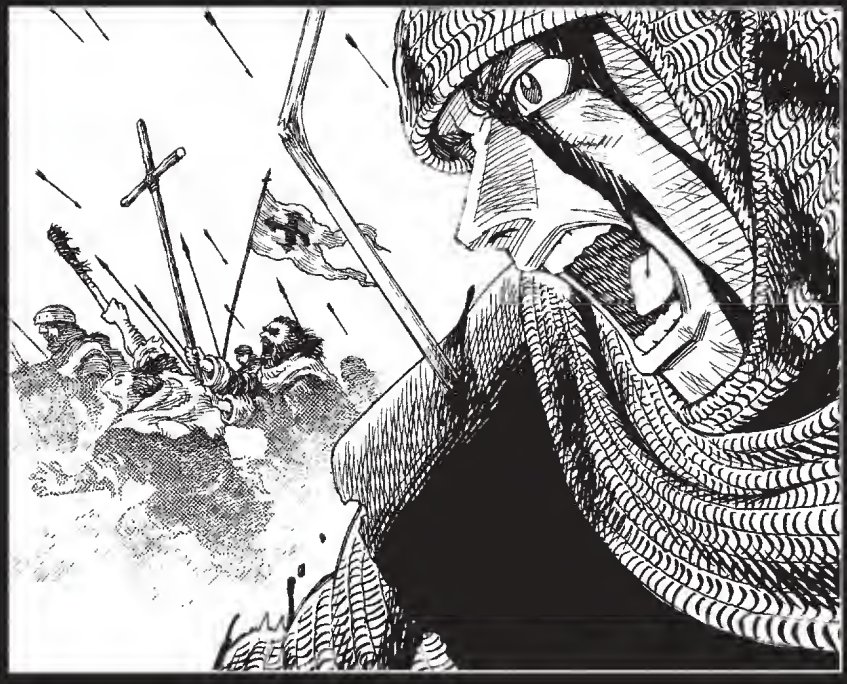

...NOW THAT THE ERA OF THEIR REIGN IS OVER?!
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST FORGIVE THE LAST OF HUMAN-KIND...

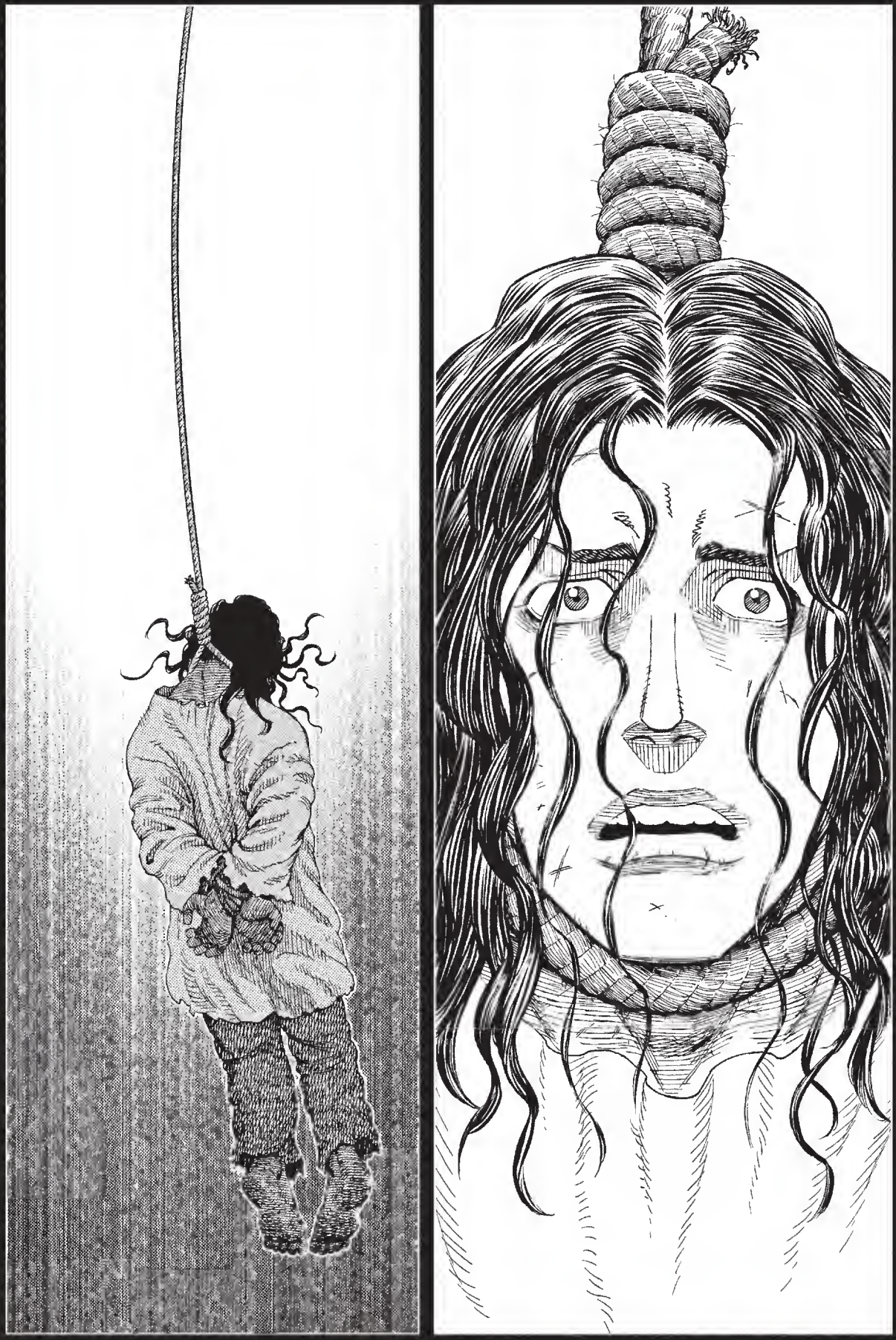
YOU HAVE MY LOVE, VICTOR.
BUT THERE IS ONE THING I DO NOT UNDER-STAND!

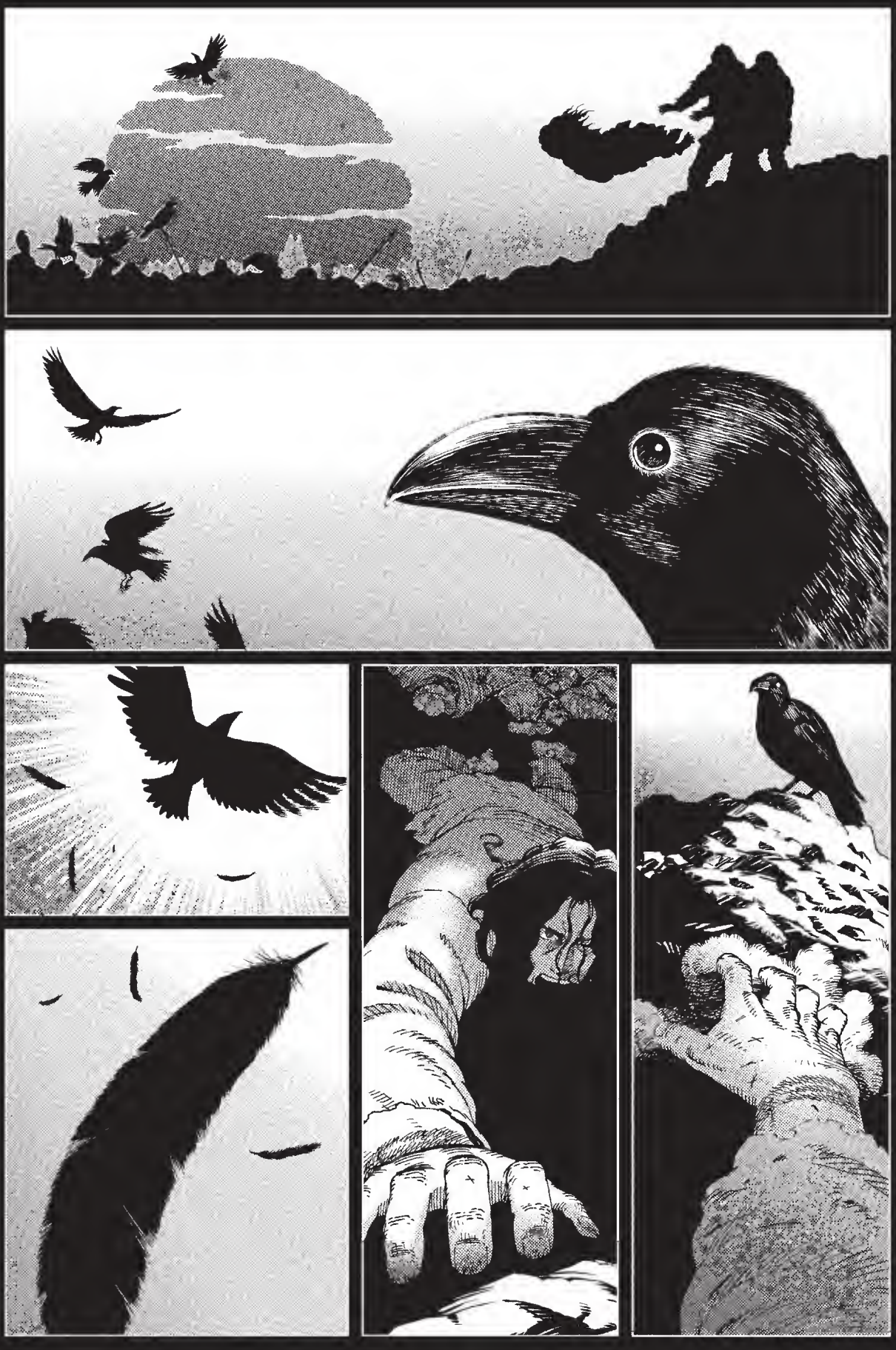

HIS RAGE HAS TAKEN COMMAND OF HIM!
I HAD HOPED TO END THIS BEFORE IT GOT TO THIS POINT...

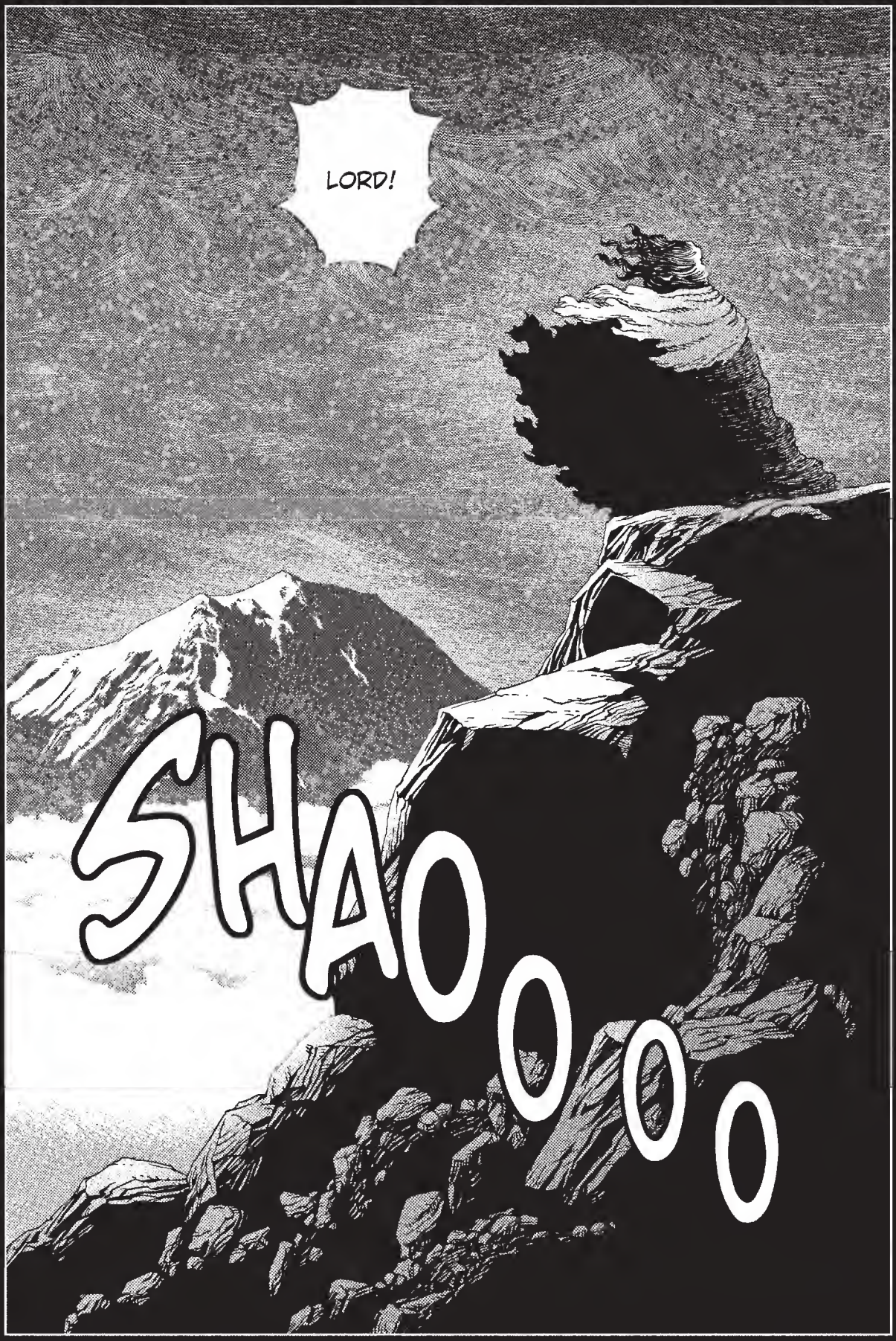
IT WAS A MILLENNIUM AGO THAT MY SOUL PERISHED...

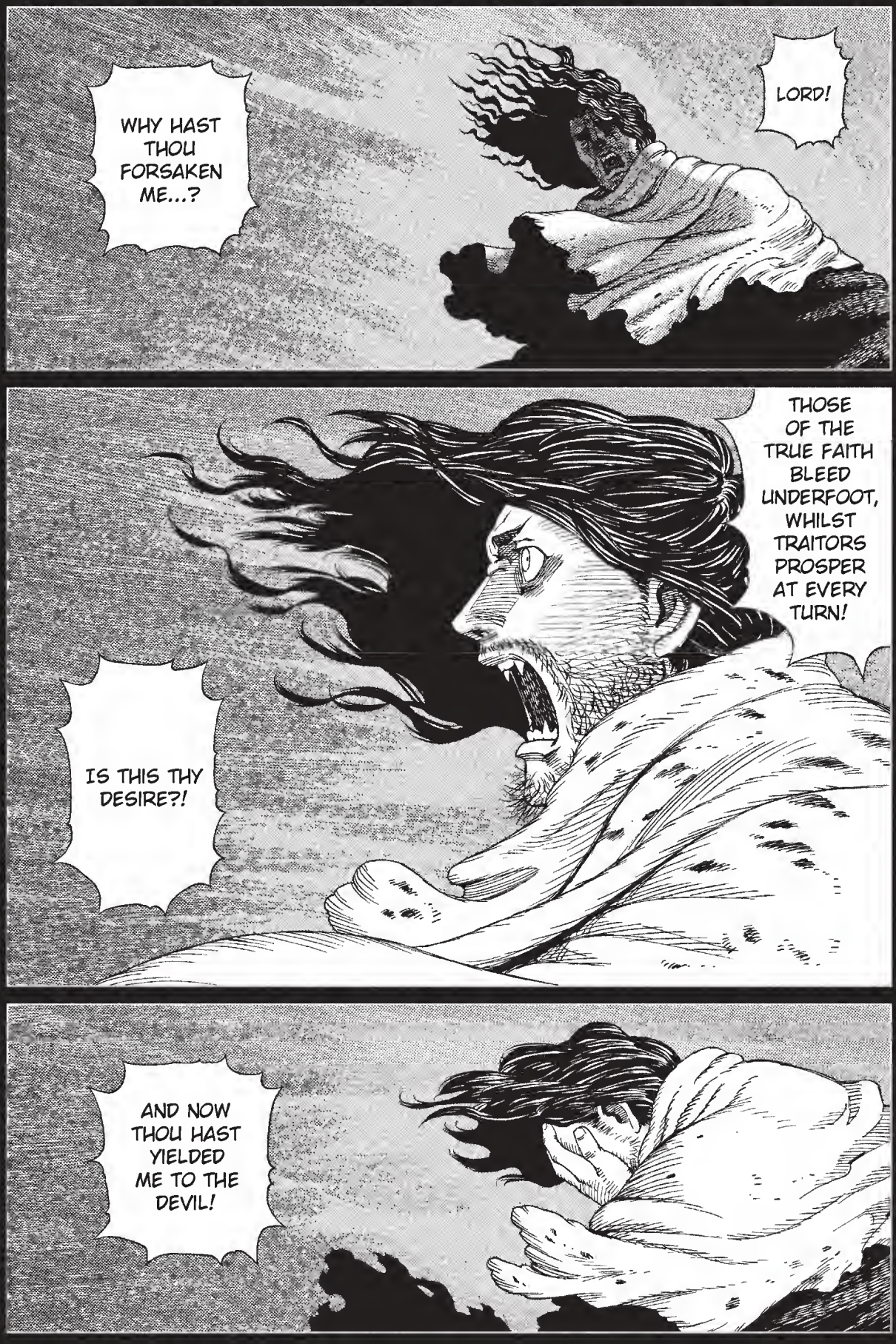









LORD!
SHAOOOOO


WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME...?
LORD!
IS THIS THY DESIRE?!
THOSE OF THE TRUE FAITH BLEED UNDERFOOT, WHILST TRAITORS PROSPER AT EVERY TURN!
AND NOW THOU HAST YIELDED ME TO THE DEVIL!

UNTIL THE DAY OF JUDGMENT!

BUT IF THOU WILT HINDER MY MISSION...
...ONLY THOU WERT A LIGHT IN MY EMPTY SOUL!
VILMA...
!
...THEN I SHALL KILL THEE!

PHASE 52:
Proud and Independent... That Is

HRRM...
KRK
THAK
KRSH
WSH
RAAH!

WOOM
KANG
FSHT

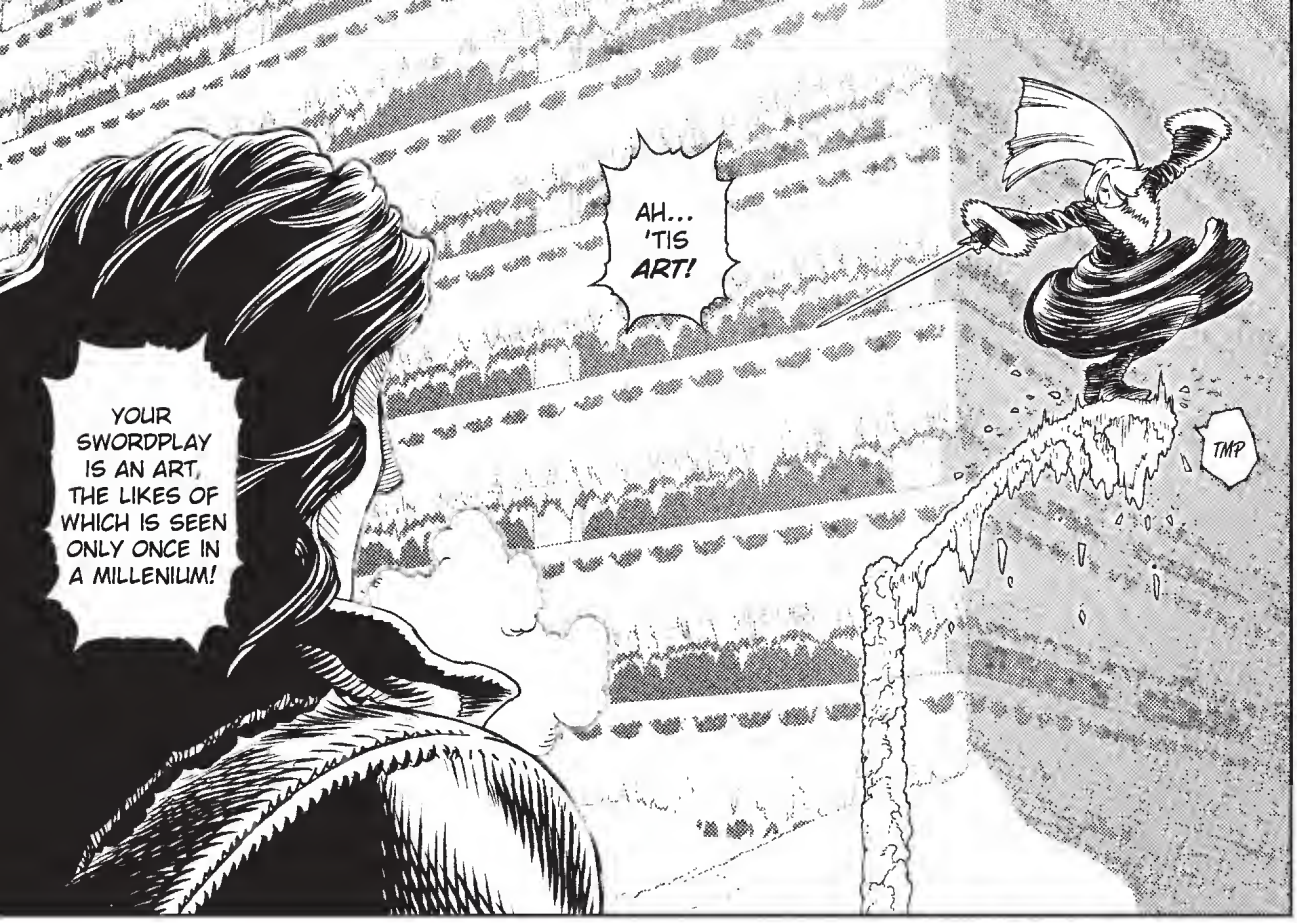
SHEEOOSH
VING
VING
VING
SHWIP WIP
IP
IP
IP
VANG!
SHIFT

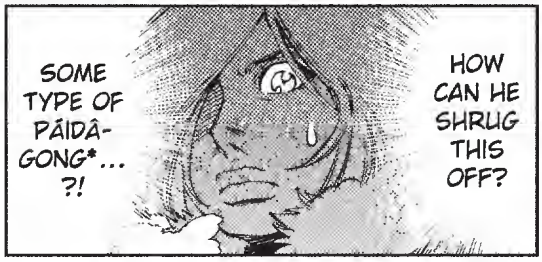
VASH
VASH
HEH! NOT BAD!
SKRAK
HMPH!
WOW!
HAH!
JUMP

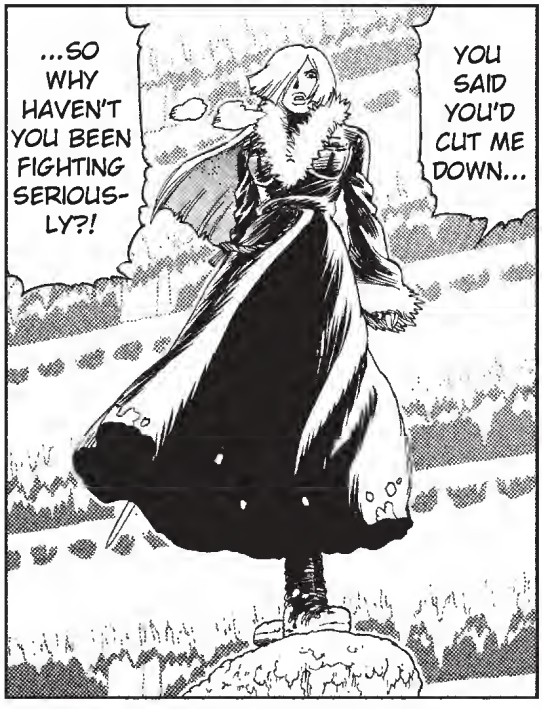
SKR
ASH
TNK
TNK
TWRSH
ZLISH
PWAP!

SHOOM!
I AM IN AWE!
NONE BUT I WOULD LAST THREE MOVES 'GAINST THEE!
ZLA
SH!

ZASHT!
WAM!
FWAK
ZSHT
JING!
WAM!



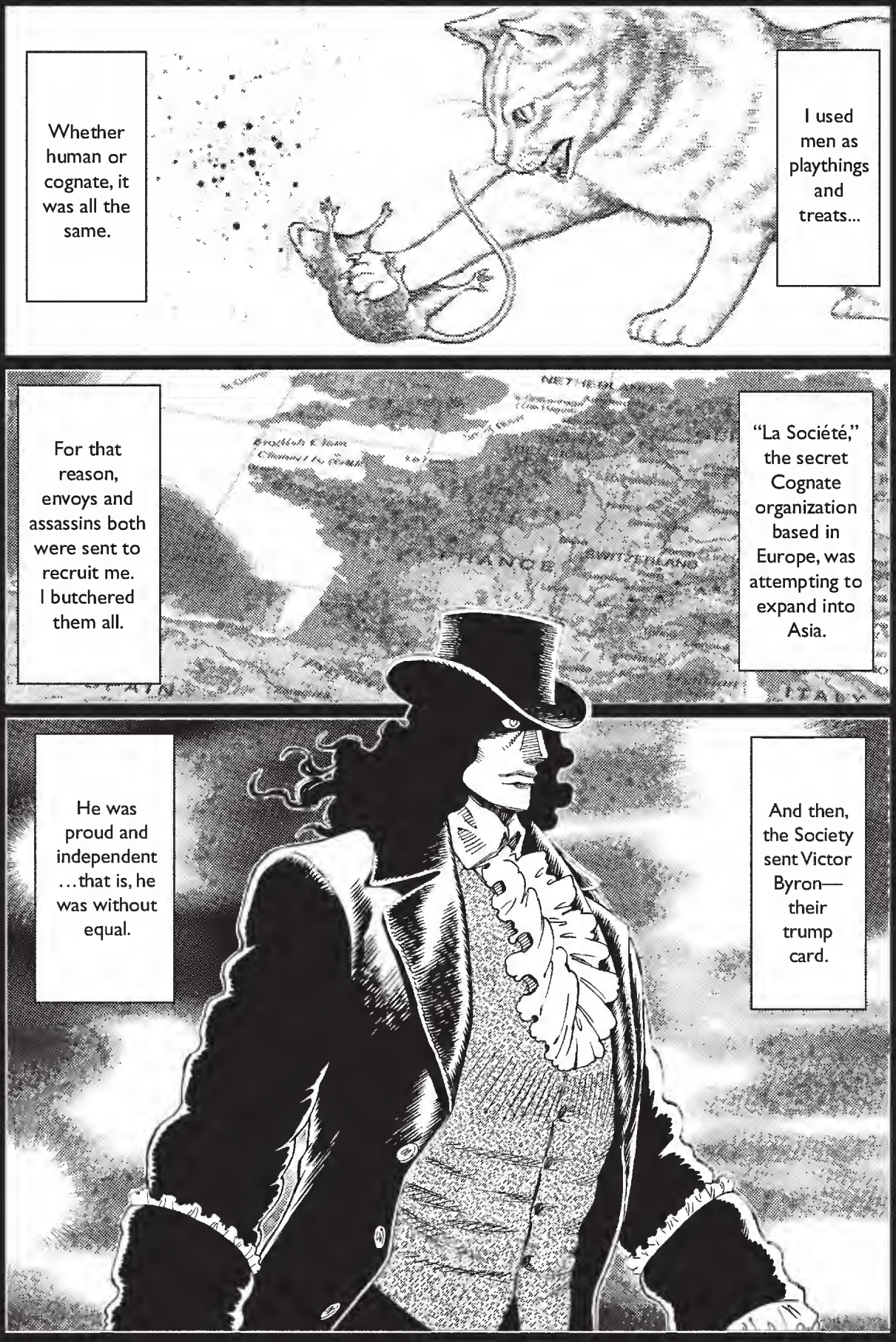




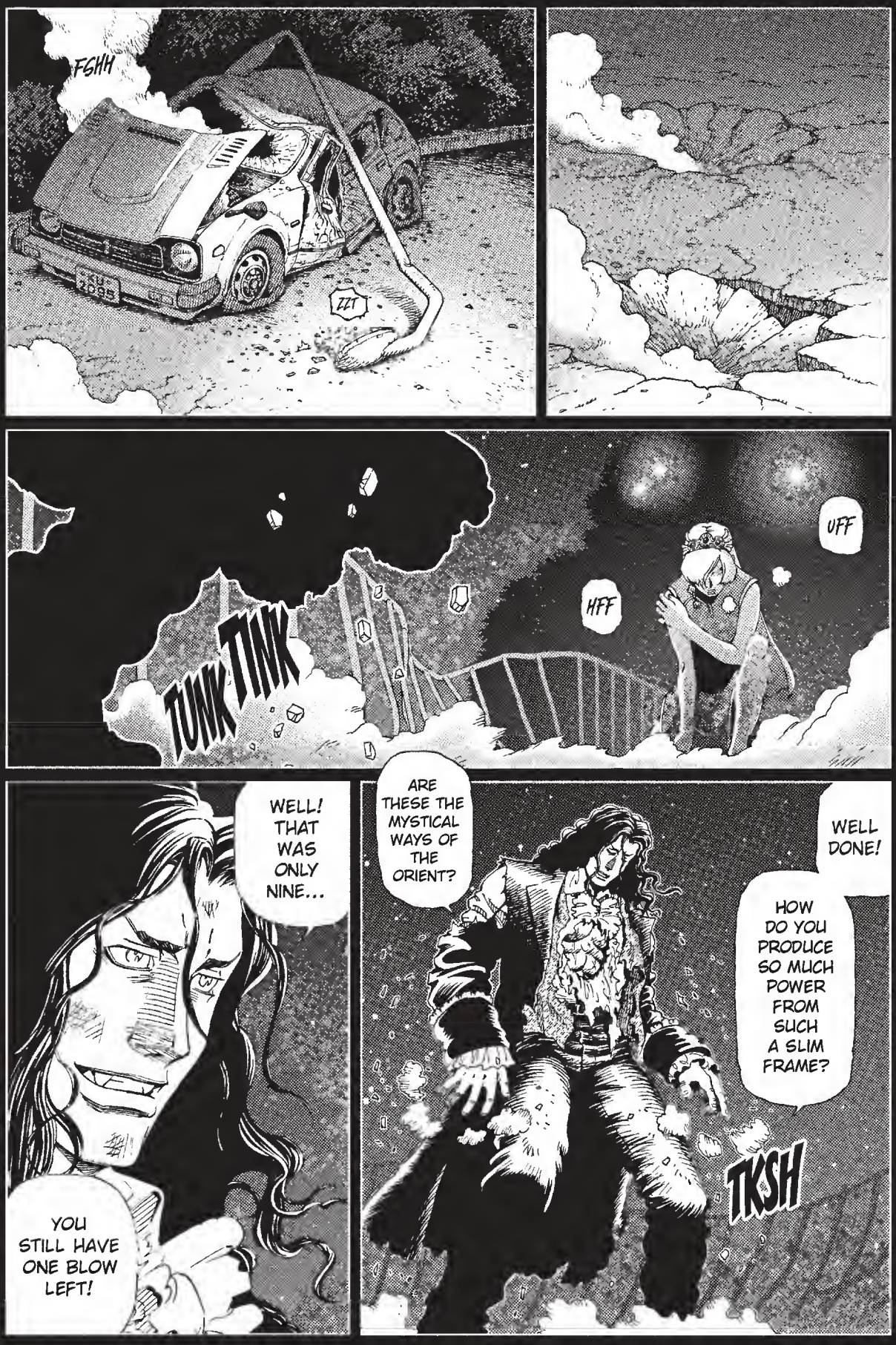
**Páidâ-gong: A training technique in Chinese martial arts to strengthen parts of the body through spiritual focus, thus enhancing resilience. This is also called Ying (hard) Qi-gong or Wushu (martial) Qi-gong.*

GIVE ME ALL, AND I SHALL TAKE IT FULLY!
HIT ME WITH THY HEART AND SOUL...
THY EVERY POWER AND TECHNIQUE!
TMP TMP TMP
SLSHT
...AND THEN TAKE THY LIFE!
...THE NIGHT WE FIRST MET?
VICTOR... DO YOU RECALL IT...
THUK
SKRRKS
THY RAGE AND HATRED SHALL BE CARVED INTO MY BODY!
I SHALL SAVOR THEM FULLY...
SHK

*Black Society: Chinese mafia/yakuza.


Whether human or cognate, it was all the same.
I used men as playthings and treats...
For that reason, envoys and assassins both were sent to recruit me. I butchered them all.
"La Société," the secret Cognate organization based in Europe, was attempting to expand into Asia.
He was proud and independent ...that is, he was without equal.
And then, the Society sent Victor Byron— their trump card.

AS YOU WISH.
COME, THEN!
IF YOU CAN WITHSTAND *TEN* OF MY BAREHANDED ATTACKS, I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY.
HEH. TEN BLOWS...
YOU'LL WRITHE IN AGONY AS YOU DIE!
FOOL!


FGHH
ZZT
TUNK TINK
HFF
UFF
WELL! THAT WAS ONLY NINE...
YOU STILL HAVE ONE BLOW LEFT!
ARE THESE THE MYSTICAL WAYS OF THE ORIENT?
WELL DONE!
HOW DO YOU PRODUCE SO MUCH POWER FROM SUCH A SLIM FRAME?
TKSH

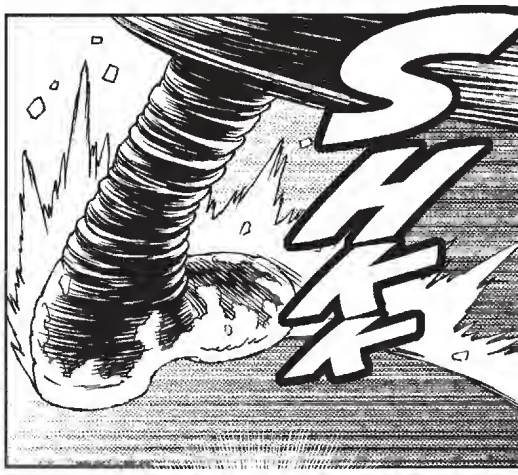
SHP
D... DAMN YOU...!
HFF
HFF
It was do or die, but...
...pride would never allow me to use my hidden weapon.
I...
...I'VE LOST...!
And on that day, the arrogant and heartless Qing-long Wei-ji...
...was defeated without receiving a single blow.

YOU CHANGED ME!

THE JOYS OF BEING LOVED...
THE JOYS OF LOVING...
YOU... TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING!

WHAM
SKRKKRK

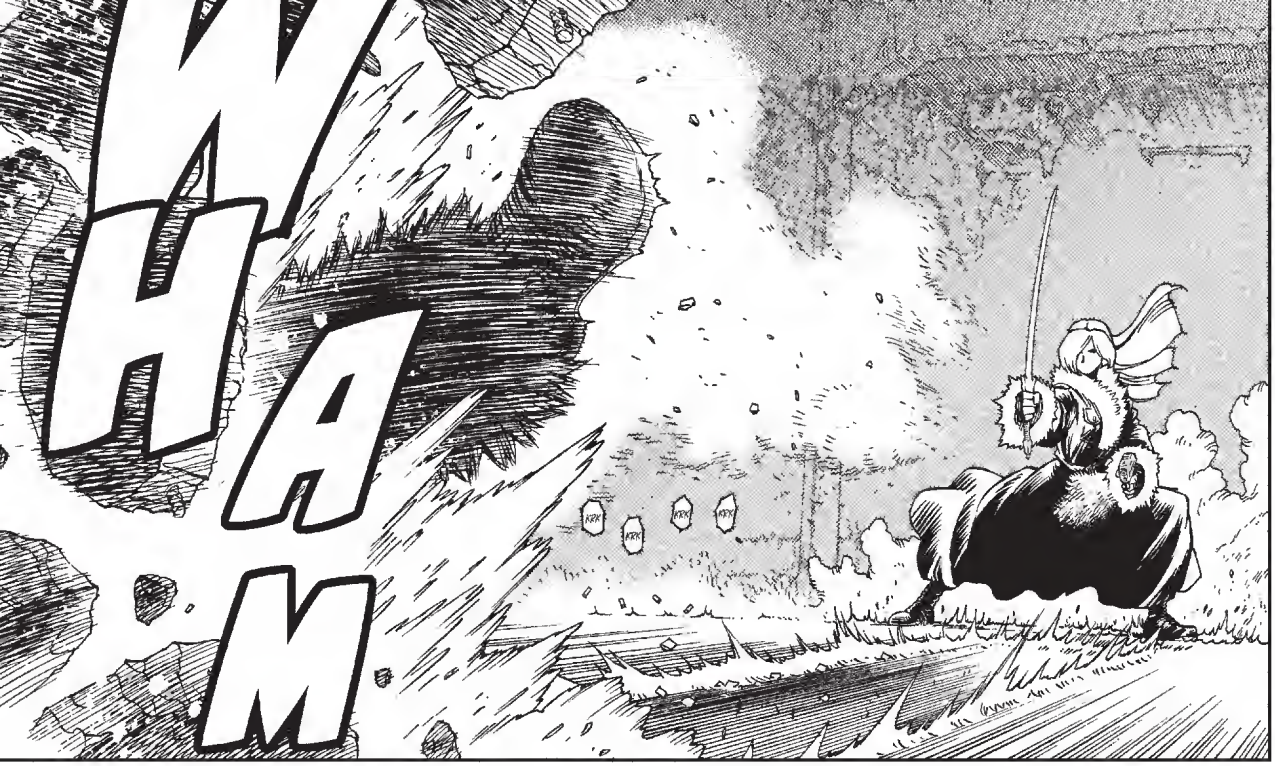
I MUST KILL YOU, BELOVED!

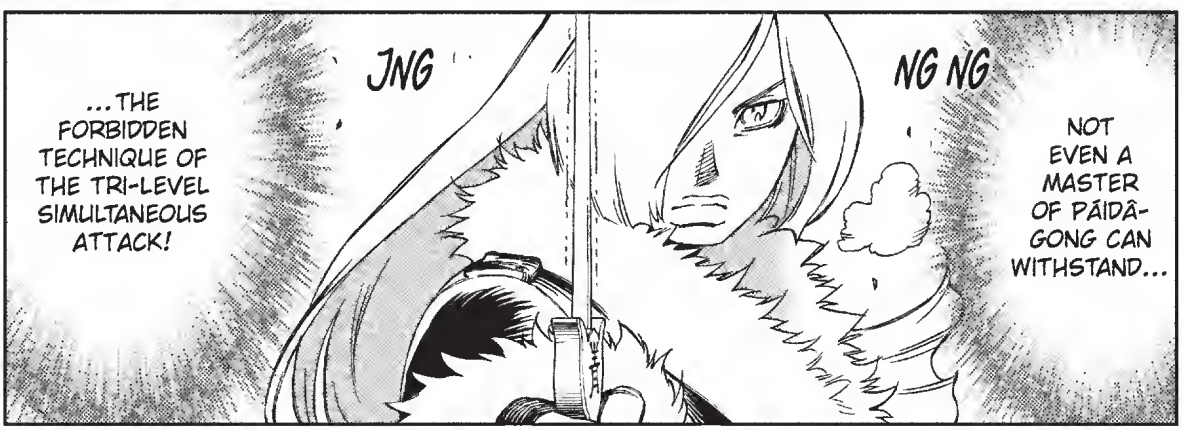

SHAK

BUT IN EXCHANGE FOR THE FUTURES OF MY DEAR HUMANS...
SHP

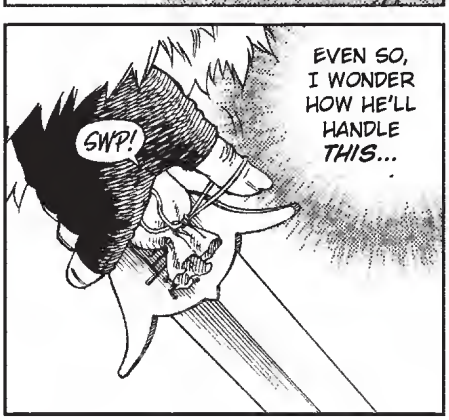
THIS IS THE BLOW THAT I COULD NOT GIVE BEFORE...
...THE TENTH BLOW OF BETRAYAL!

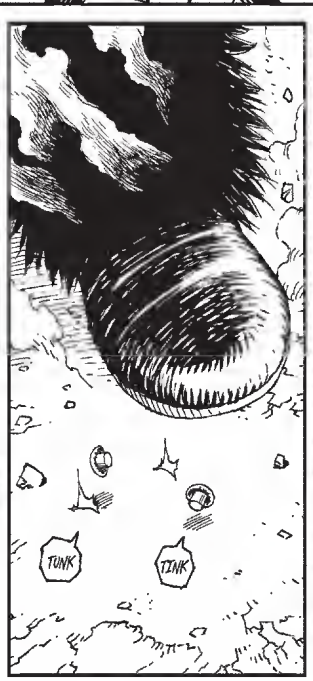
*Gut Wrenching Three-Yin Blow

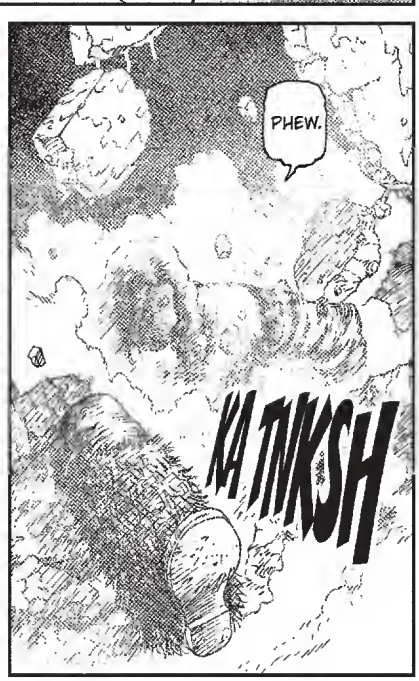

HA
M


...THE FORBIDDEN TECHNIQUE OF THE TRI-LEVEL SIMULTANEOUS ATTACK!
JNG
NG NG
NOT EVEN A MASTER OF PÄIDÂ-GONG CAN WITHSTAND...

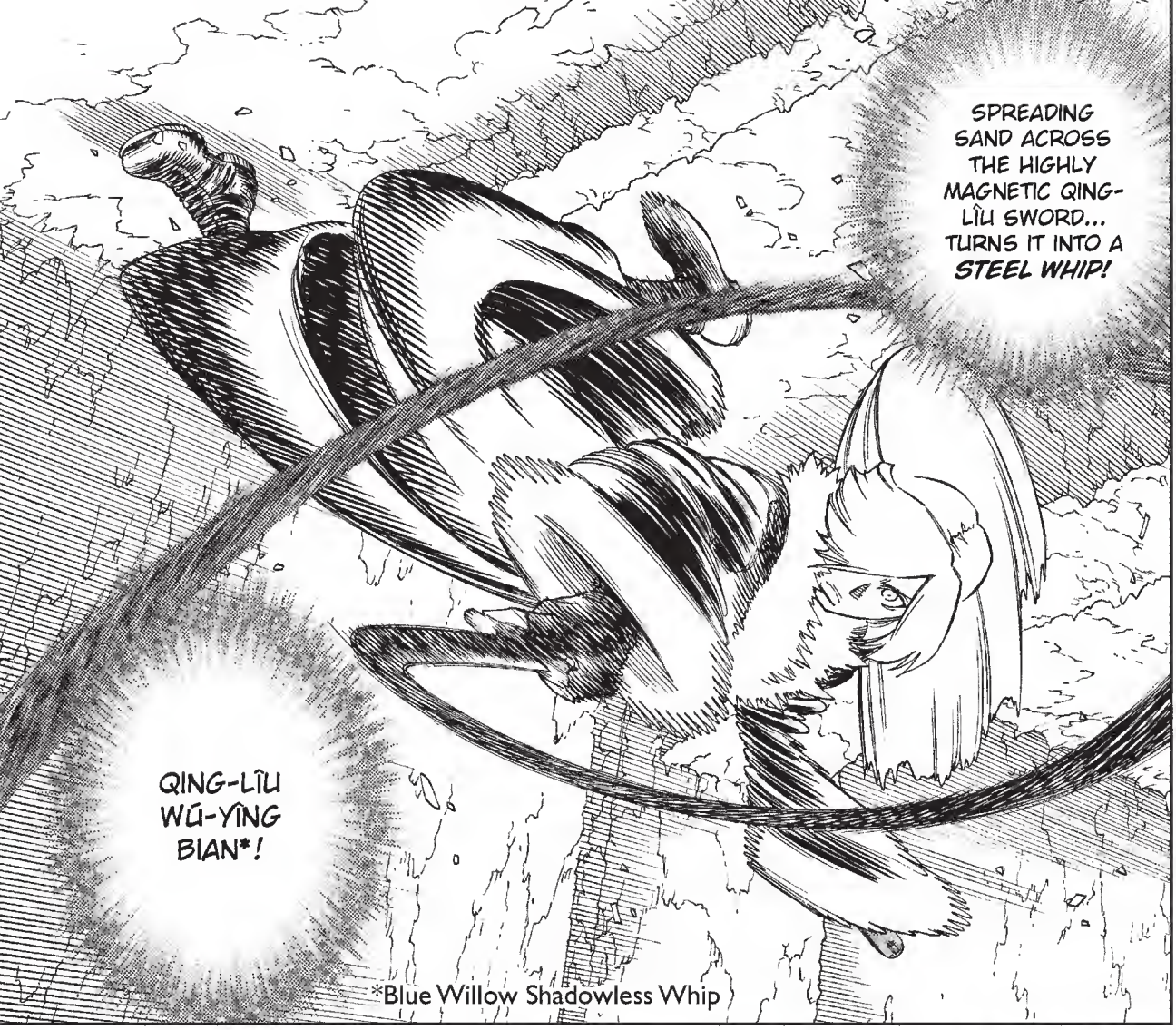
THIS IS BEYOND PÄIDÂ-GONG...!

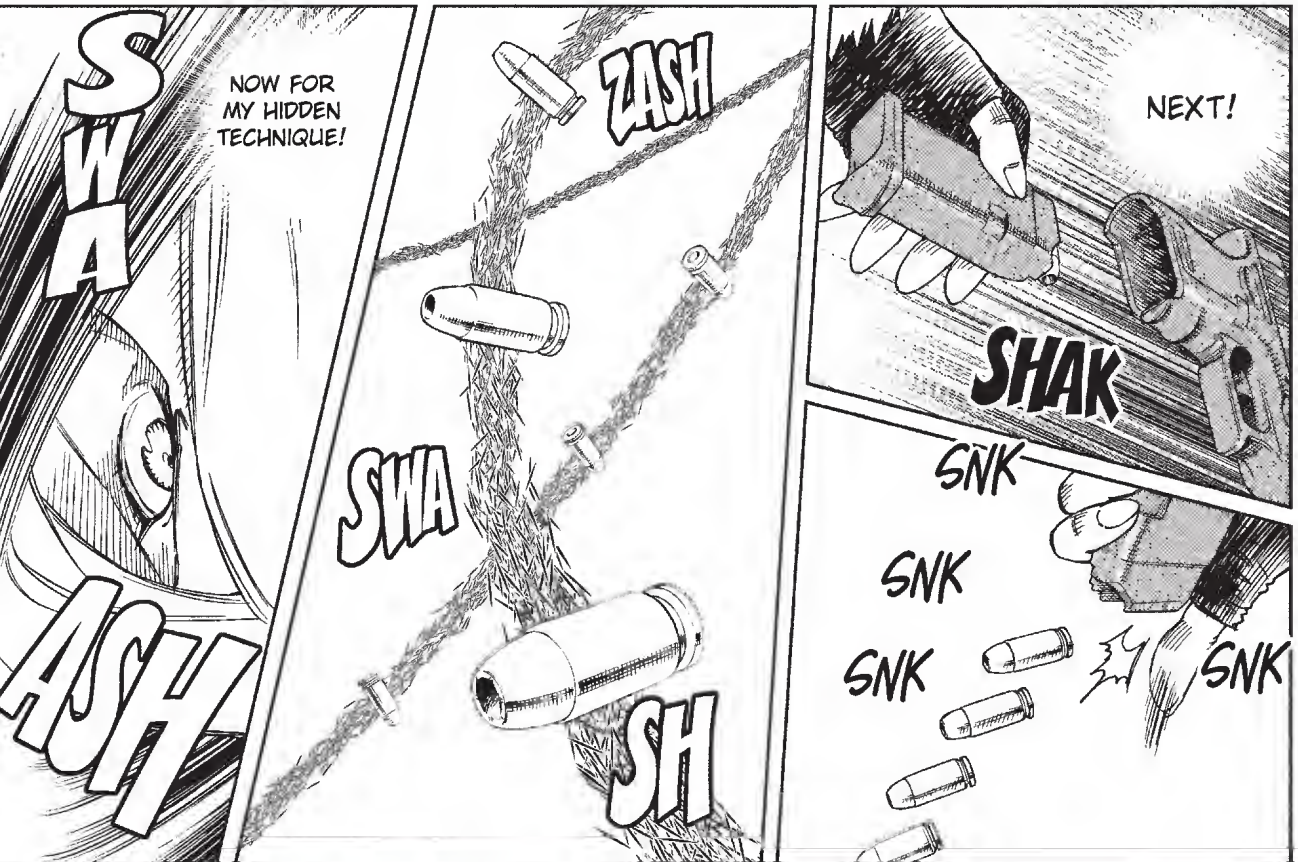

SWP!
EVEN SO, I WONDER HOW HE'LL HANDLE THIS...


TUNK
TINK


PHEW.
KA TNKSH

FTT FSHT FTT
TPSH
TPSH
AH!
ZZT
ZZT
KI
JING!
WPSH
POW!


SPREADING SAND ACROSS THE HIGHLY MAGNETIC QING-LÍU SWORD... TURNS IT INTO A STEEL WHIP!
QING-LÍU WŪ-YÍNG BIAN*!
*Blue Willow Shadowless Whip


NOW FOR MY HIDDEN TECHNIQUE!
SWA
ASH
ZASH
SWA
SH
NEXT!
SHAK
SNK
SNK
SNK
SNK

LÓNG YING BIAN BAO!!*
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
*Caged Warbler Explosive Whip

__Rén-zhong__: The acupuncture point between the noise and the upper lip. This is one of the vital points that can result in death when struck.

__Bâi-hùi__: The acupunture point situated on the crown of the head. It is located at the intersection of the sagittal and coronal sutures of the skull.

RSE
CHK
SHA
AA
AA
THE COUP DE GRACE!

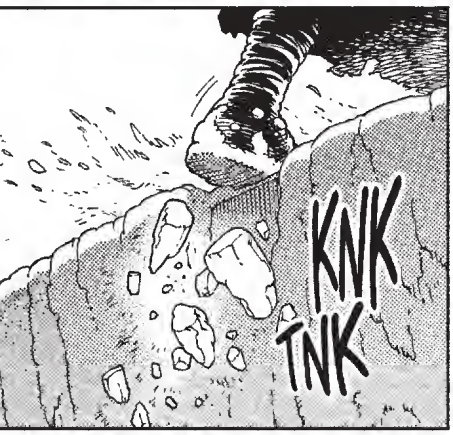
YA-
MÉN-
SHA*
!!
WOOM!

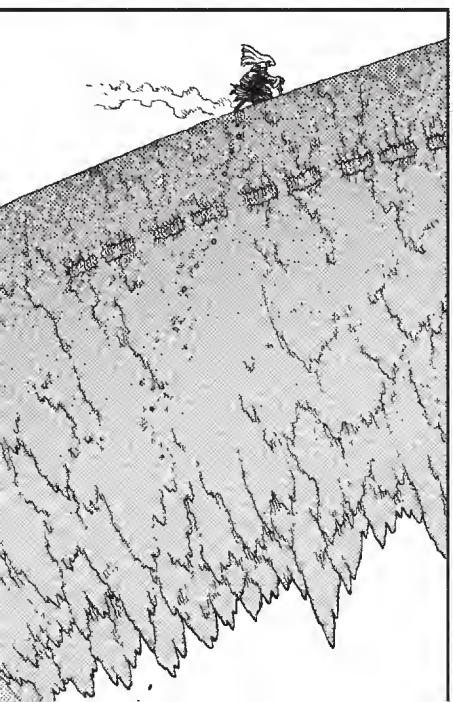
**Yamén*: An acupuncture point at the nape of the neck.
Author's note: *This stuff is dangerous, so don't try these techniques at home!*

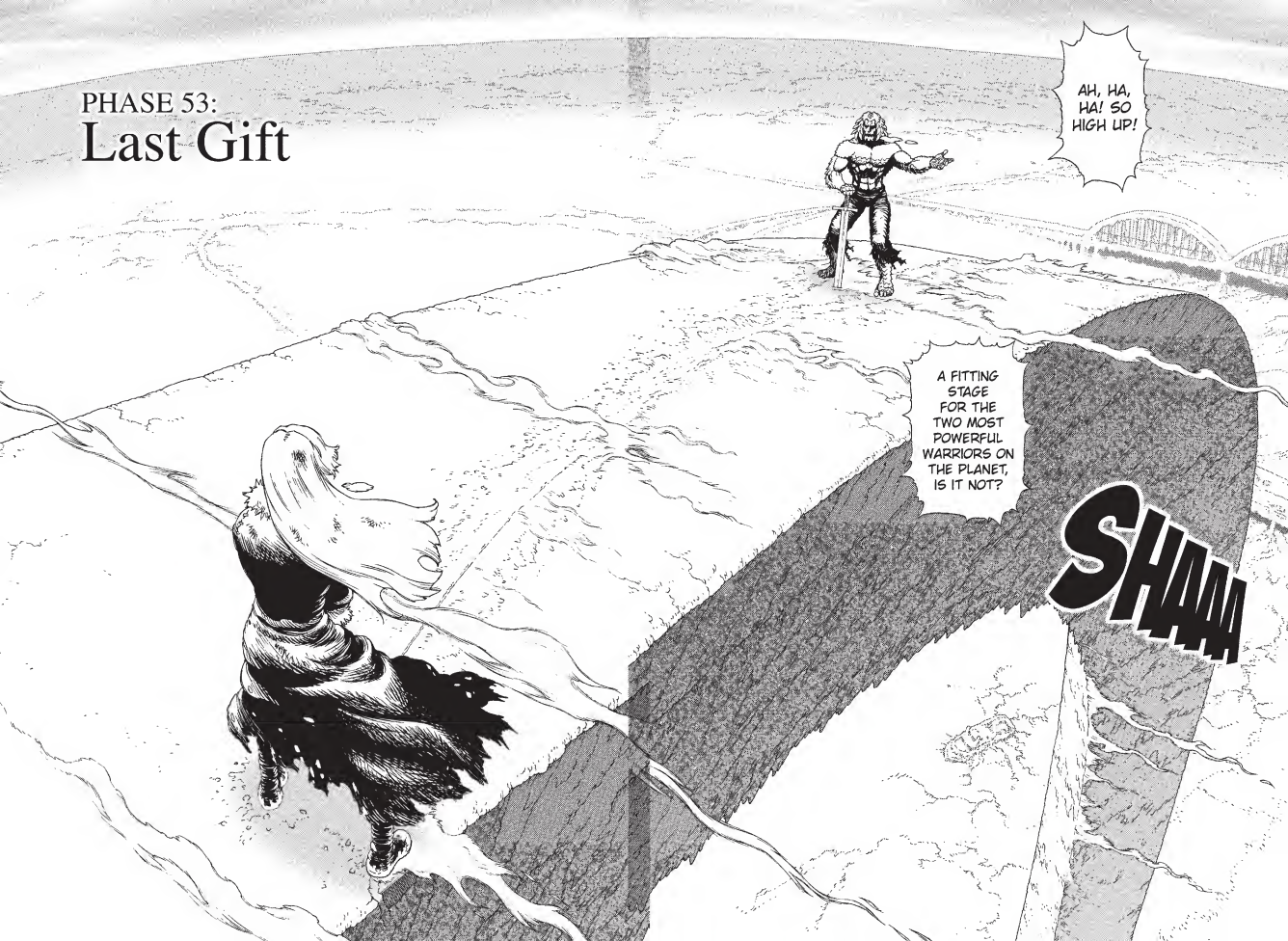
RRIP
IT WAS ENOUGH TO STIMULATE A *TOTAL* TRANSFORMATION!
I WOULD EXPECT NO LESS OF MY WIFE!

THOSE WHO SURVIVE DEVELOP SPECIAL ABILITIES, WHICH WE NAME "SATAN'S HONOR."
krik
krak
A LONG-LIVED COGNATE CAN UNDERGO SEVERAL ALTERED SHOCKS.
krk!
IN MY CASE, THIS SCALE MAIL.
WH... WHAT IS THAT?
...I feared an opponent in the depths of my heart!
For the first time in my life...

PHASE 53:
Last Gift

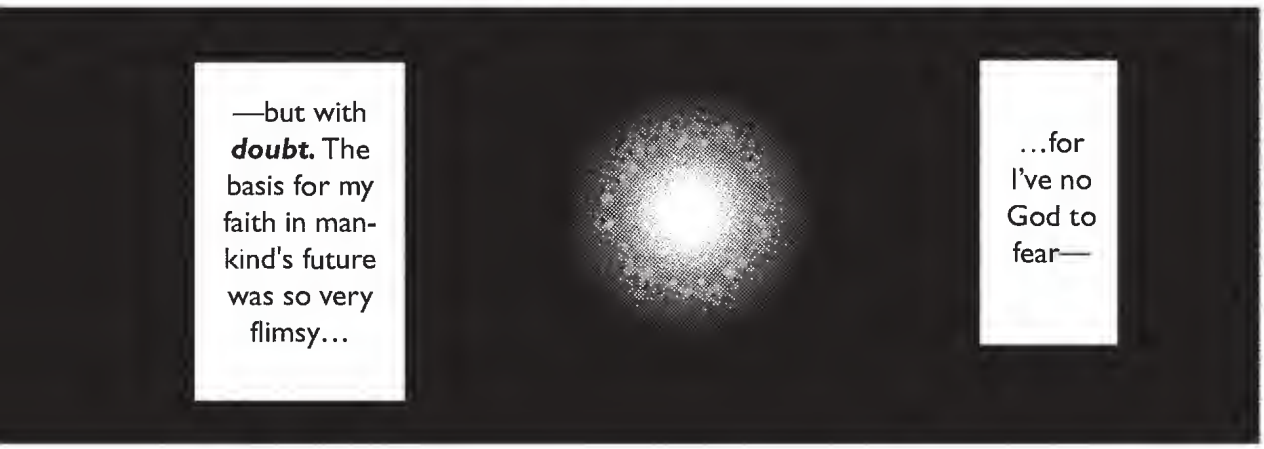




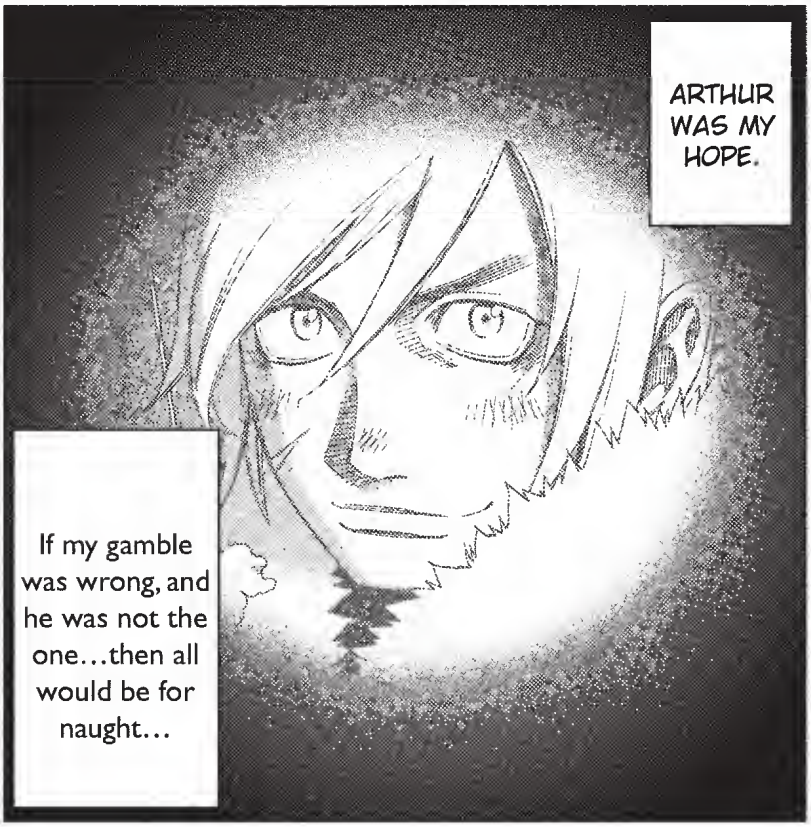

PHASE 53:
Last Gift
AH, HA, HA! SO HIGH UP!
A FITTING STAGE FOR THE TWO MOST POWERFUL WARRIORS ON THE PLANET, IS IT NOT?
SHAAA

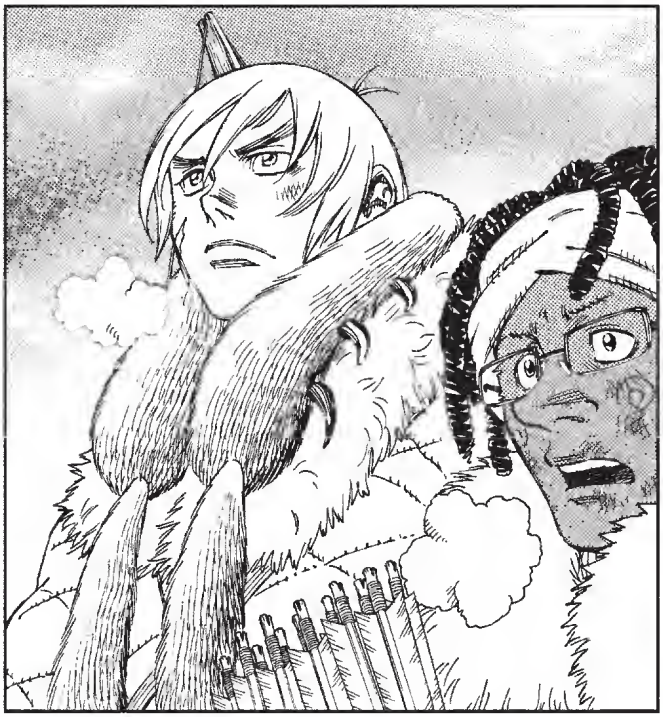
ONE STANDS TO ERADICATE MAN-KIND...
...WHILE THE OTHER- RAISES A SWORD IN BATTLE WITH FAITH IN THE FUTURE OF MANKIND.
BUT THY FAITH IS MISGUIDED, VILMA!
FOR GOD SENT HIS METEOR, A JUDGMENT ON THEM ALL!
ON THAT DAY, THE STORY OF MAN CAME TO AN END!
I AM MERELY FINISHING WHAT GOD HATH BEGUN!
NOT YET...
IT'S NOT OVER YET!

...what Victor said shook me to the core—not with belief...
My words were bold, and yet...


—but with ***doubt.*** The basis for my faith in mankind's future was so very flimsy...
...for I've no God to fear—

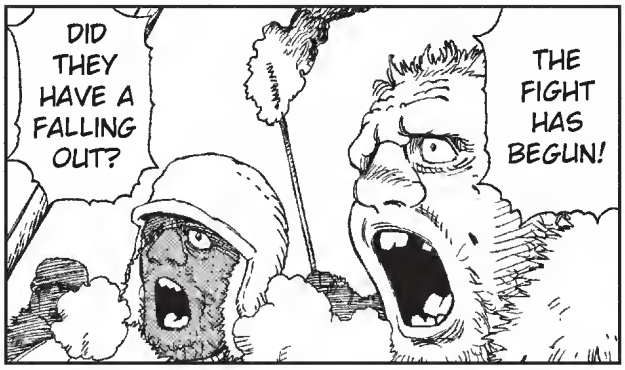
!

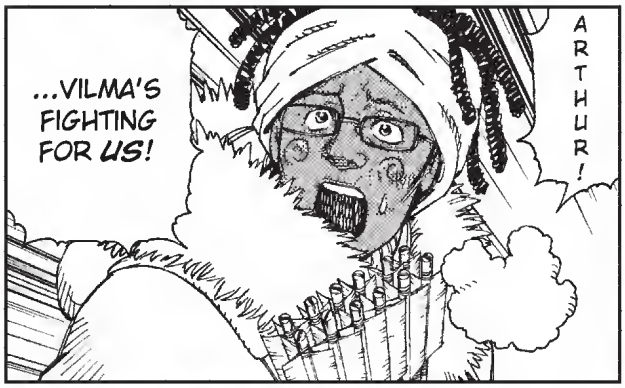

ARTHUR WAS MY HOPE.
If my gamble was wrong, and he was not the one...then all would be for naught...

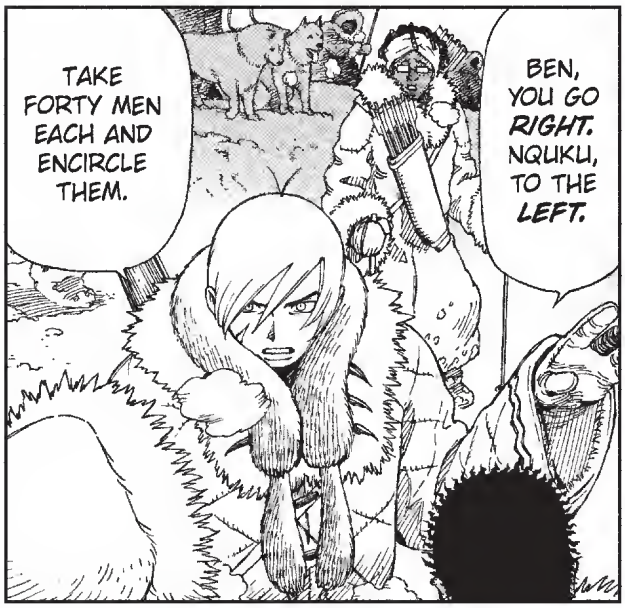


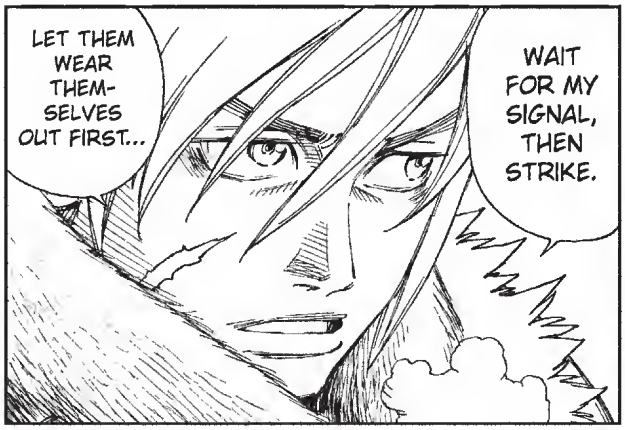
HOW'D THEY GET ALL THE WAY UP THERE?!
UP AT THE TOP...

ARTHUR ...
HEH... SAVES ME THE EFFORT OF HUNTING THEM!
THIS FULL ARMOR TRANSFORMATION CONSUMES ALL MY ENERGY, SOON LEAVING ME IN A COMA-LIKE STATE FOR MONTHS.
SHING
BUT I SHOULD HAVE ENOUGH POWER LEFT TO EXTERMINATE THEM, AFTER I KILL YOU.
THUS, I CANNOT USE THIS ABILITY VERY OFTEN!
SHNNNG
I WON'T LET YOU!
I WILL PROTECT THEM! I SWEAR!


DID THEY HAVE A FALLING OUT?
THE FIGHT HAS BEGUN!


...VILMA'S FIGHTING FOR *US*!
ARTHUR!

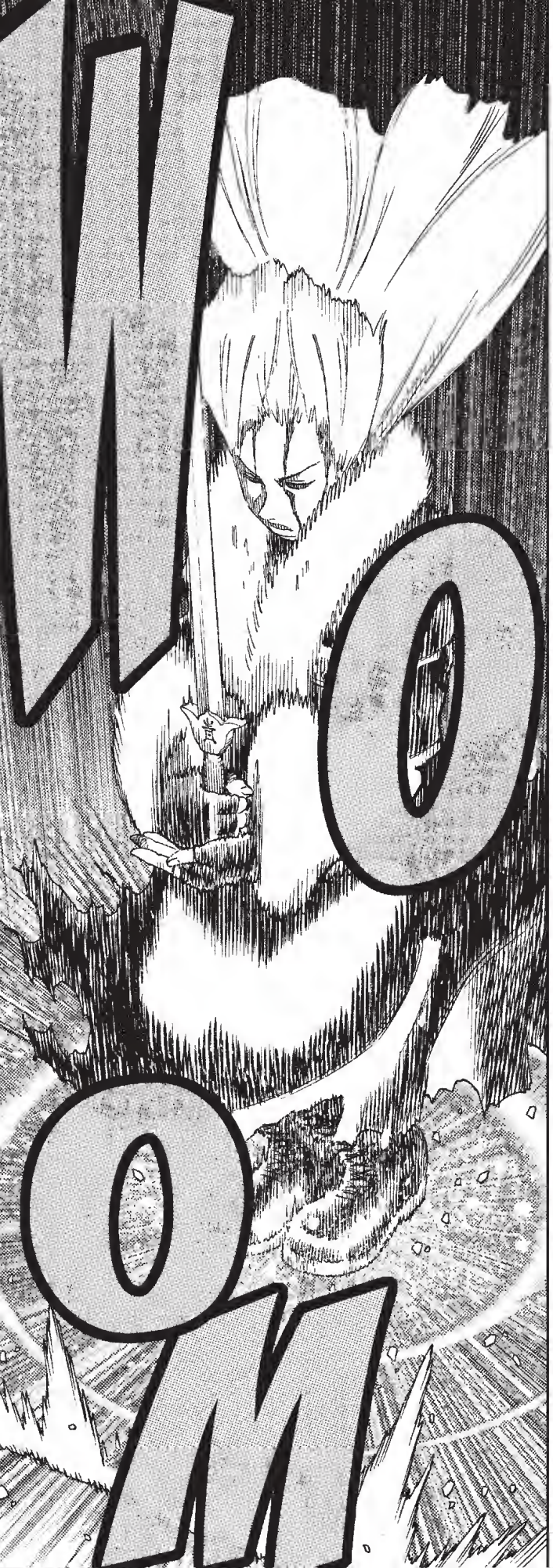

TAKE FORTY MEN EACH AND ENCIRCLE THEM.
BEN, YOU GO *RIGHT*. NQUKU, TO THE *LEFT*.


LET THEM WEAR THEM-SELVES OUT FIRST...
WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL, THEN STRIKE.

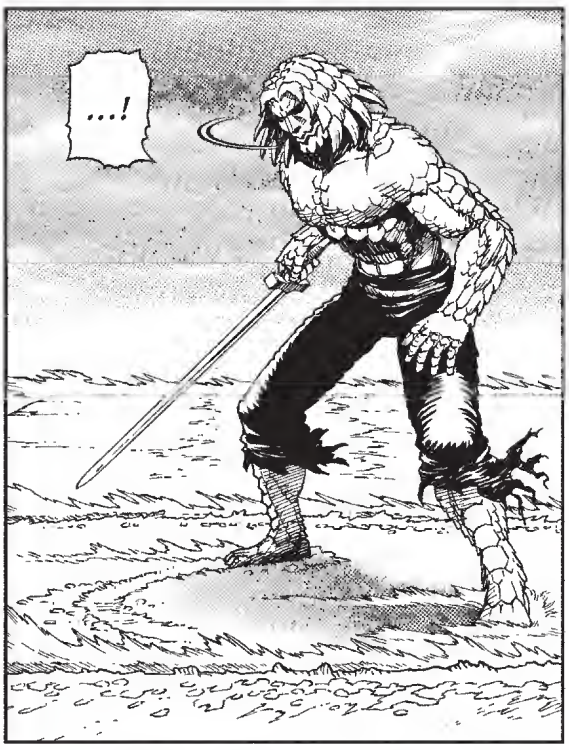
JNG!JNG!
KA
T!
NG!

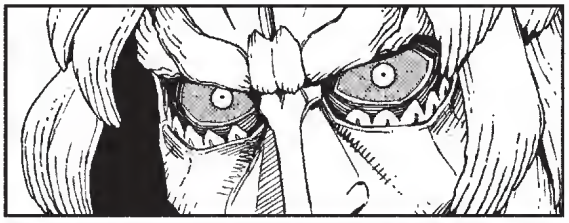
KANG!
ZLING
ING
LASH!

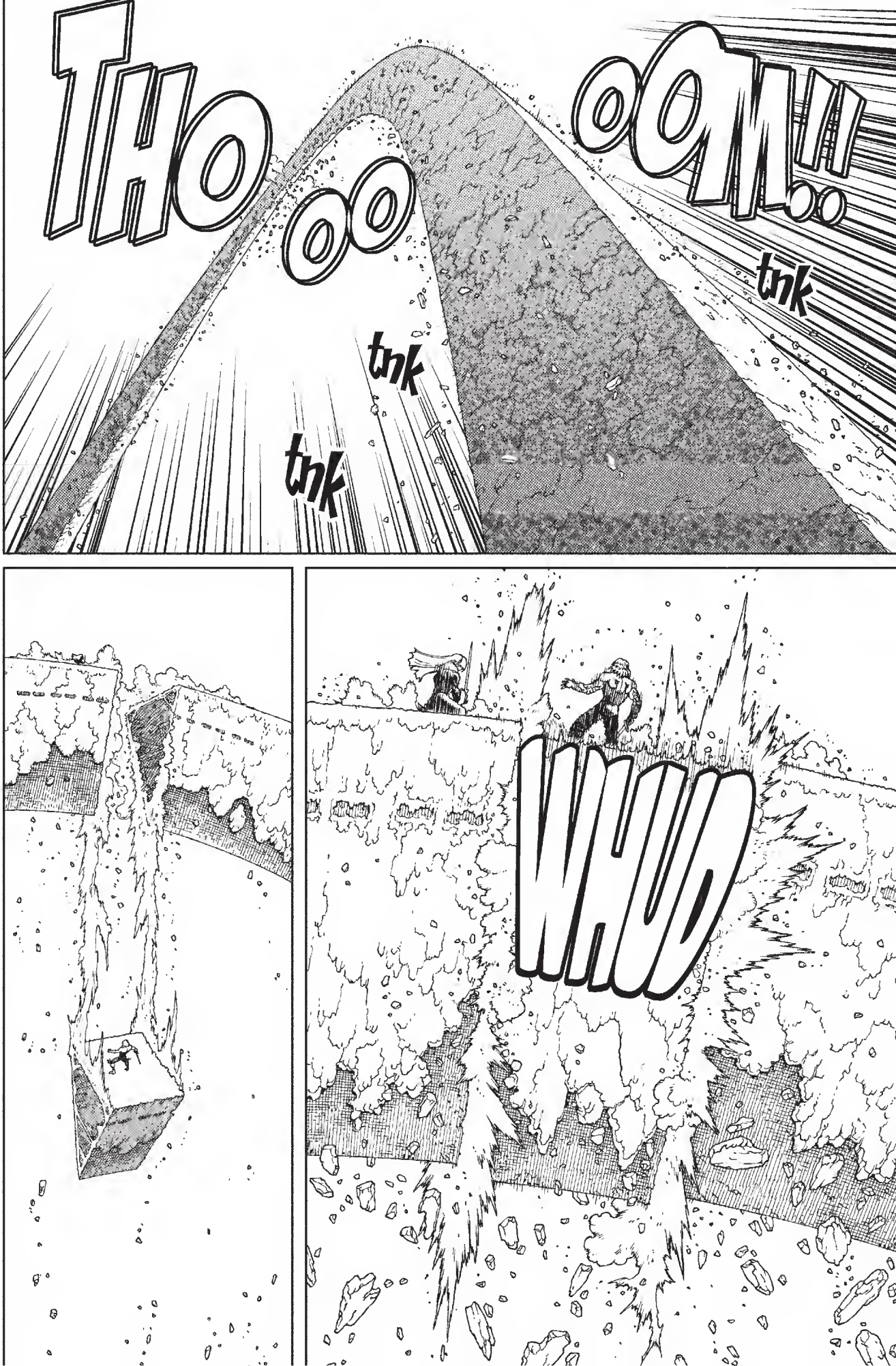
GAH!
FWOOP!
WZZT!


HOOM

SHKSHH


...!




THOOOOM...
tnk
tnk
tnk
WHUD

A FALL FROM ALMOST 200 METERS!
NOT EVEN VICTOR CAN...
WHOOOM!

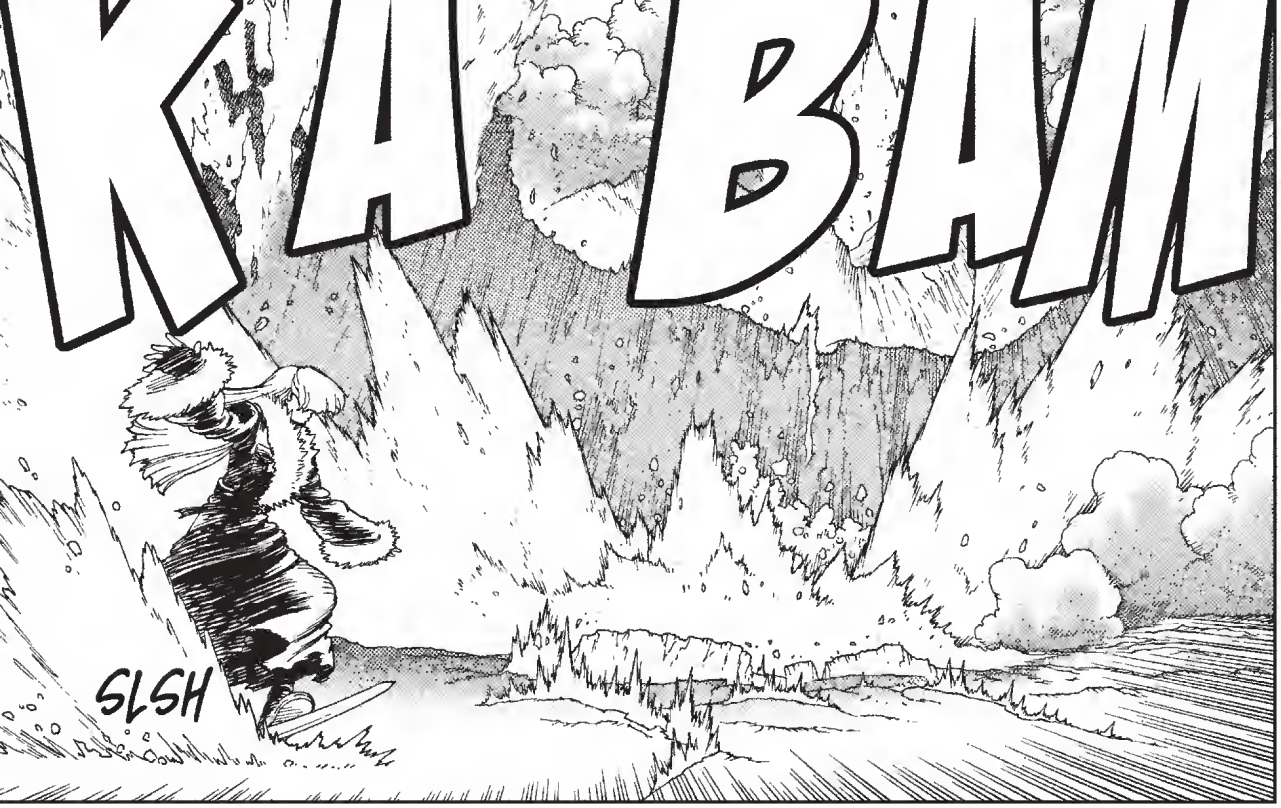
.....
ARTHUR.
YAAH
HE'S DEAD FOR SURE!
NOW HARUKA CAN REST IN PEACE!
arf!
HA! HE BIT THE DUST!
SERVES YA RIGHT!
WE CAN STUFF HIS BODY AND PUT IT ON DISPLAY!
NOT SO FAST!
HEY, WAIT!

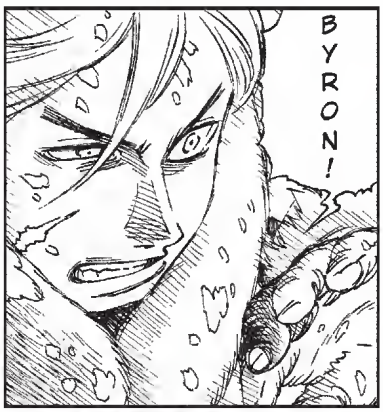
PLOP
PLIP
GAHH!

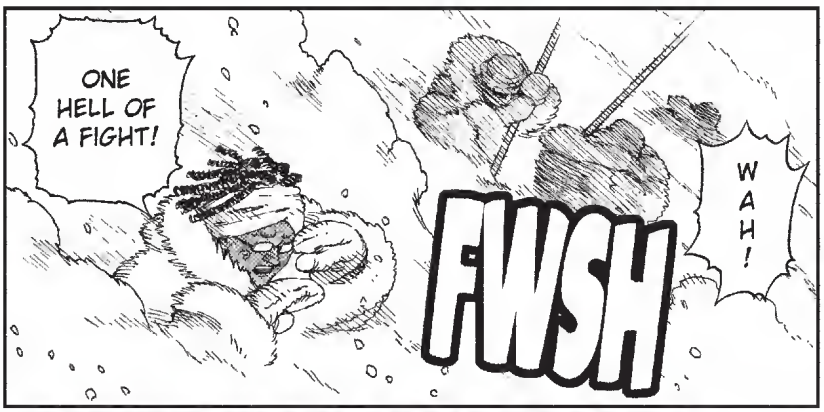
FOOM
M-M-MONSTER!
EEEE!
SHK
SPLUT
BLAM
WHA
BAM

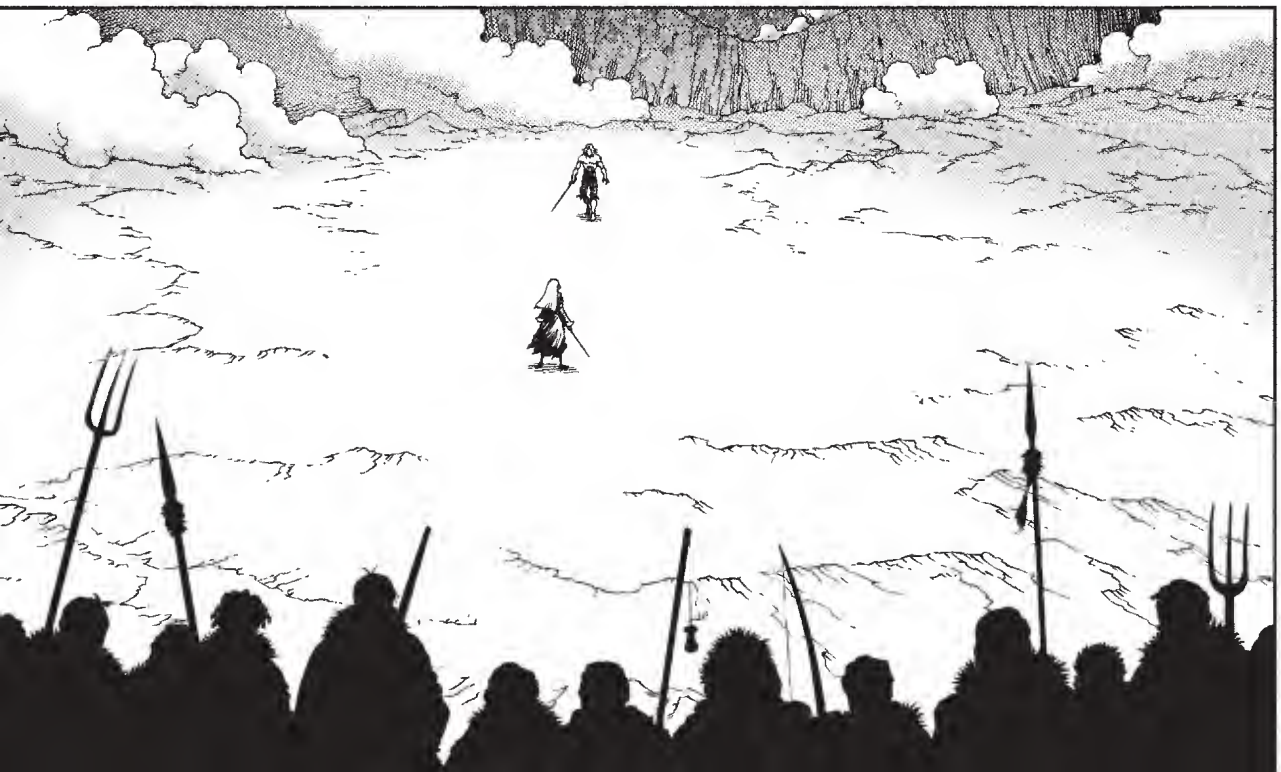
KRKKK
SKRSSH!!
I-IT'S COMING DOWN!
KA TNK
crk crk crk
KRESH
TUK
FASH

BAM
KRSH
OOM
OOM
OOM
OOM

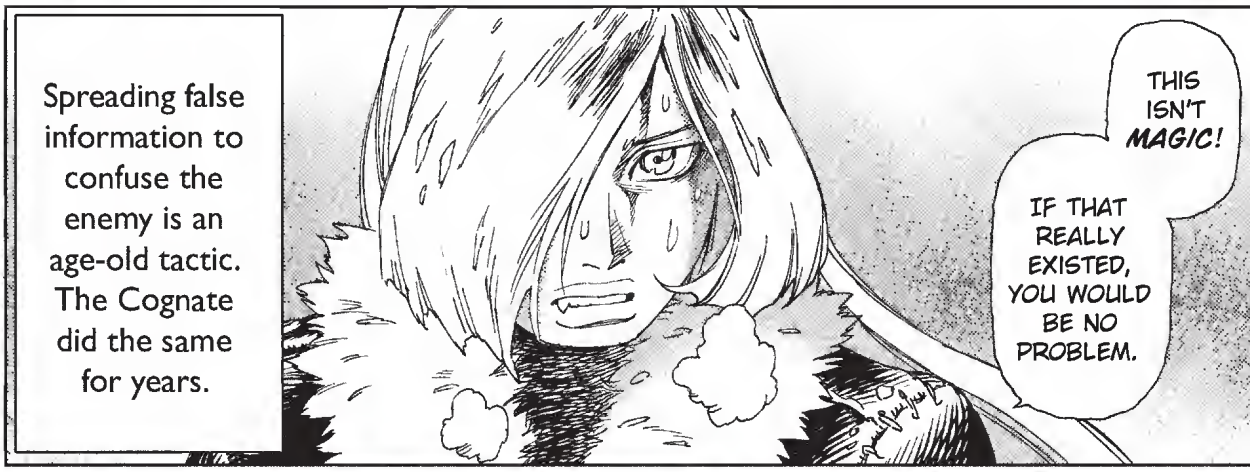

KA
BAM
SLSH

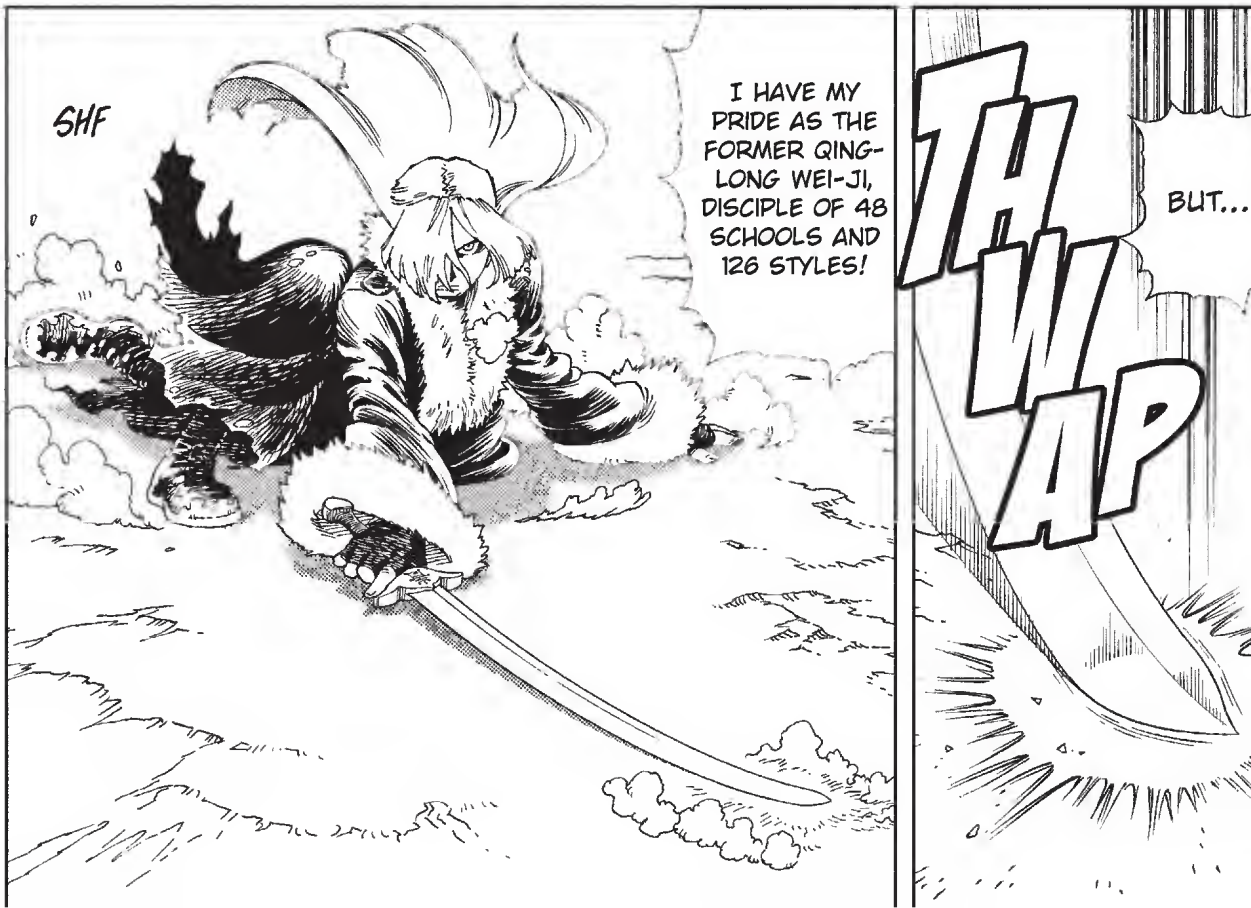

BYRON!


ONE HELL OF A FIGHT!
FWSH
WAH!



SHOW ME THE MOVE WHERE SOMEONE'S HEART IS STOPPED WITHOUT LAYING A FINGER ON THEM.
NO MORE MYSTIC MOVES FROM THE ORIENT?
WHAT ABOUT THAT ONE FROM THE OLD KUNG FU FILM?


Spreading false information to confuse the enemy is an age-old tactic. The Cognate did the same for years.
THIS ISN'T MAGIC!
IF THAT REALLY EXISTED, YOU WOULD BE NO PROBLEM.


SHF
I HAVE MY PRIDE AS THE FORMER QING-LONG WEI-JI, DISCIPLE OF 48 SCHOOLS AND 126 STYLES!
BUT...
THWAP

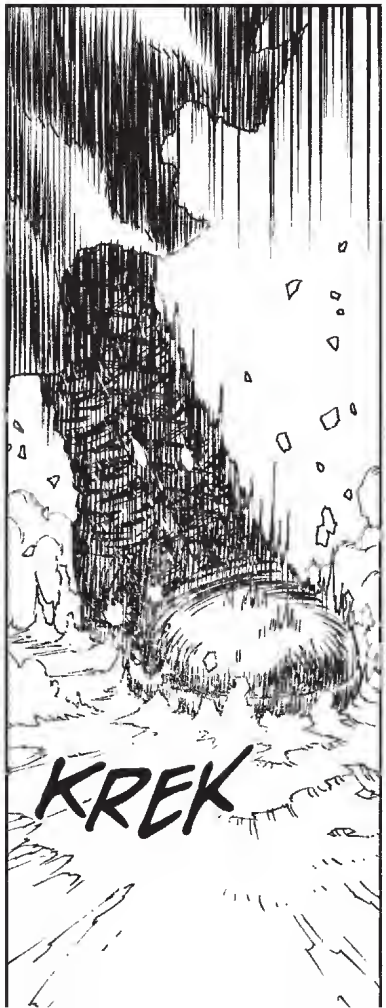
I STILL HAVE ONE SECRET SWORD TECHNIQUE LEFT...
WHY DON'T I *SHOW* YOU!
CONSIDER THIS MY *LAST GIFT* TO YOU, VICTOR!
SLSSHH
ZWSH
ZWSH
ZWSH

ZWSH
WOK TOK
AH?
SHE TWISTS ABOUT LIKE A MONSTROUS SERPENT!
HM!
SHK
THOU ROLLEST ON THE GROUND AND CUT AT MY FEET?
IT DISSAPOINTS ME THAT THY FINAL TECHNIQUE IS BUT MIMICRY OF A SNAKE!
L-LOOK AT THE SWORD...
...A BIT AT A TIME...
I'LL MOVE THE LAST OF MY ENERGY...
...INTO THE SWORD...

...IT'S LIKE A COILED SPRING!
KRRK
...THEN I RELEASE THAT ENERGY ALL AT ONCE!
SWANG!

DÌ-
GONG-
LÚO-SI-
JIÀN*
!!
*JACKHAMMER SWORD

SKREEEEEEE
ARGH!

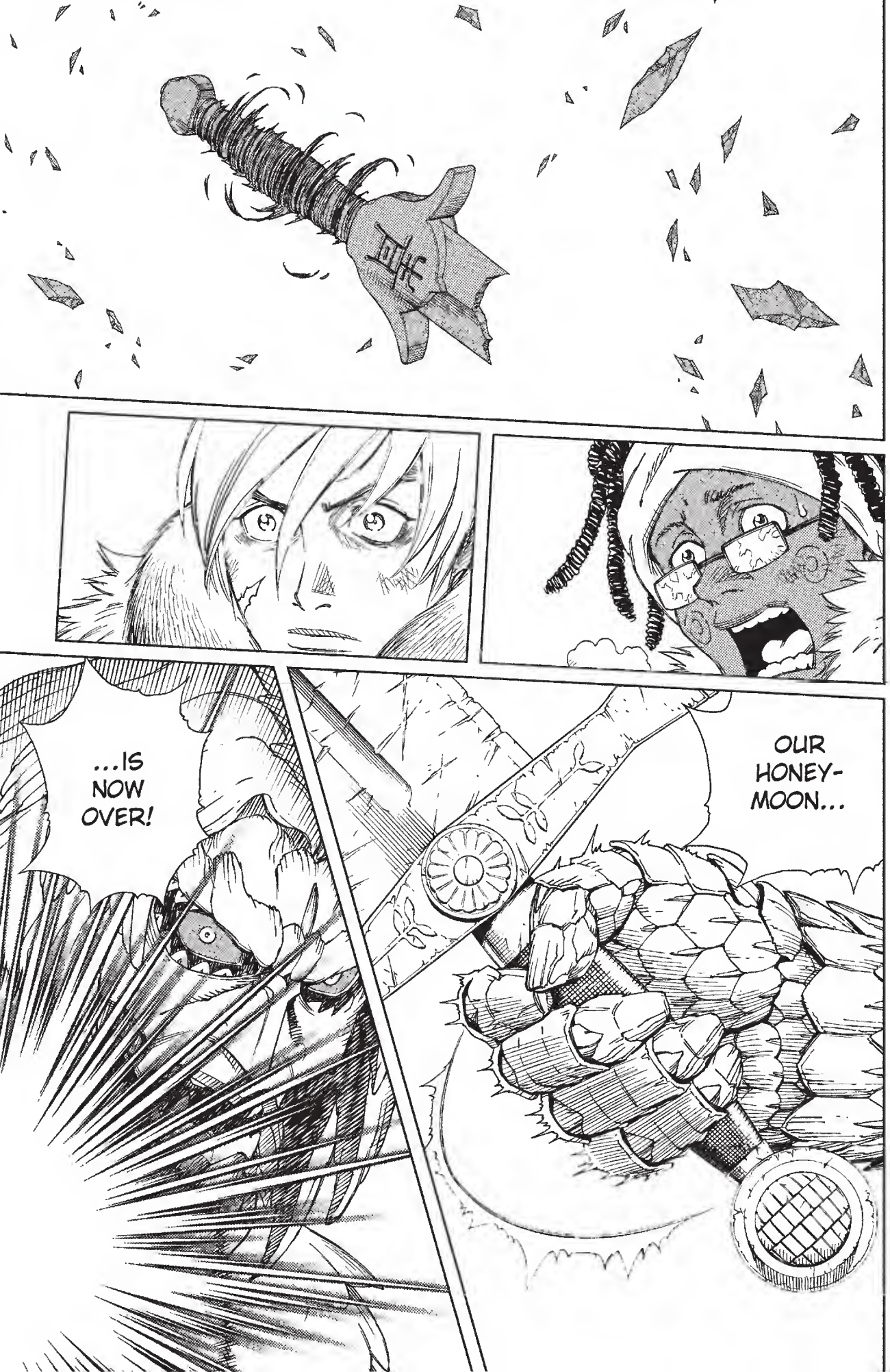

KREK

HAAH!
zzt
zzt

THE ENERGY CREATED FROM DE-COILING IS FOCUSED TO A SINGLE POINT...
IT'S LIKE A DRILL!

CRAK!
KREE REE REE
PLSH
SPURSH
KACHOK
URGGH!
SHE BROKE THROUGH!

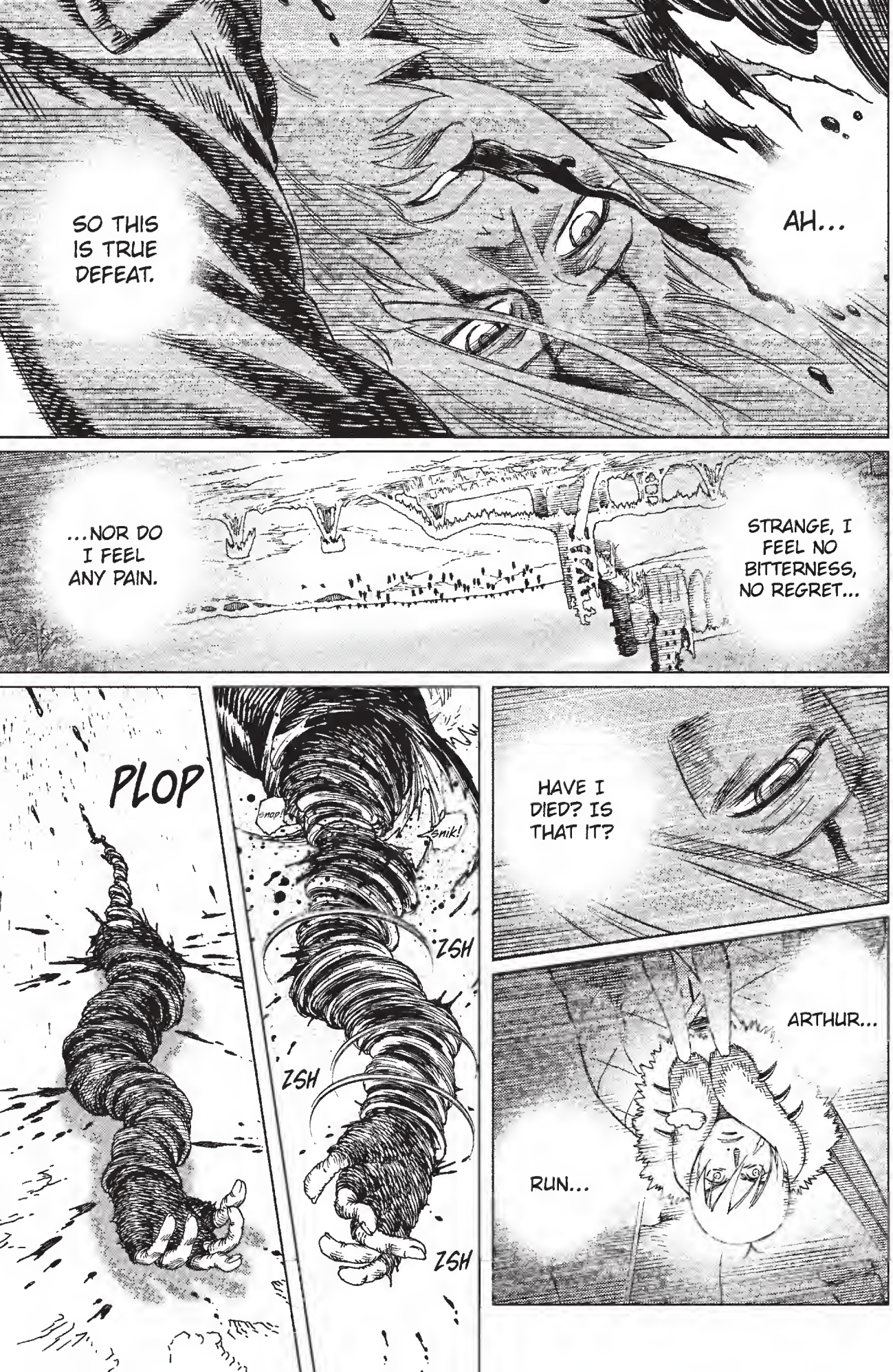
ZANG!
!!
SKA
BAM


...IS NOW OVER!
OUR HONEY-MOON...

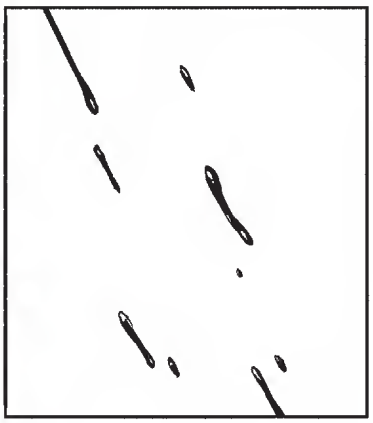
WUNK

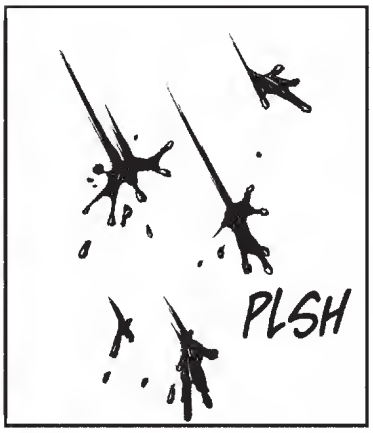
PHASE 54:

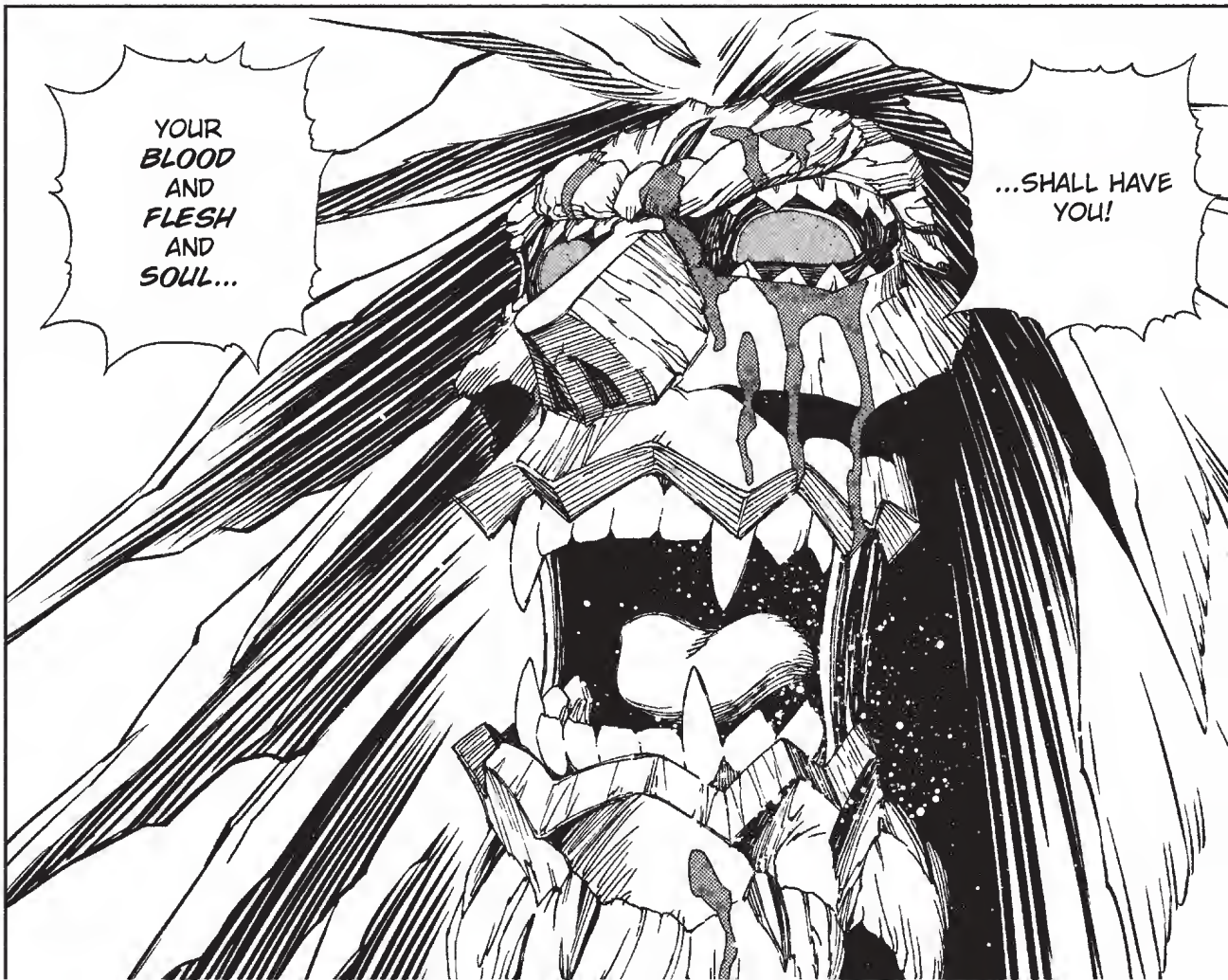
If Thou Shedst Those Tears for Me...

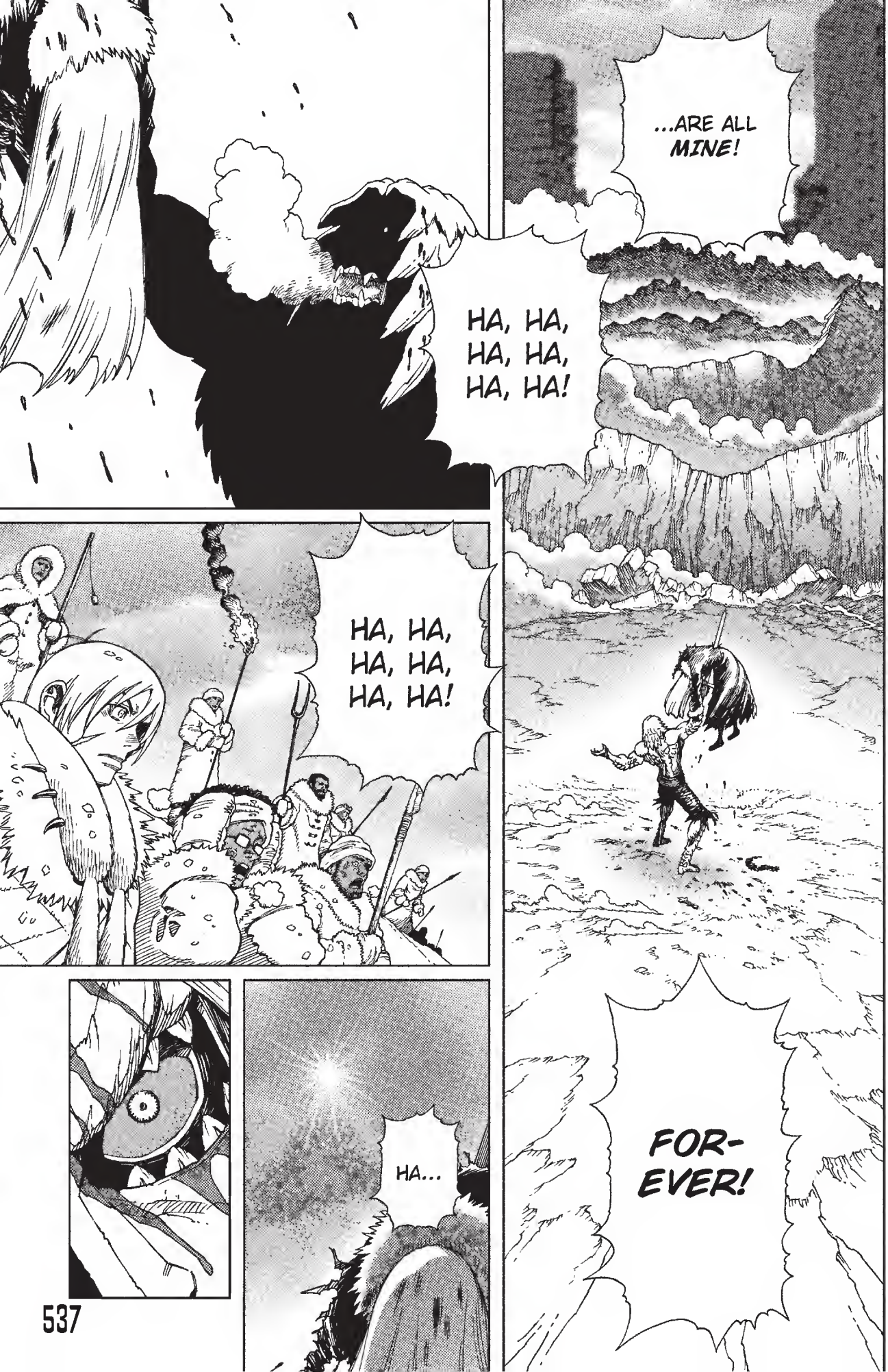

SO THIS IS TRUE DEFEAT.
AH...
...NOR DO I FEEL ANY PAIN.
STRANGE, I FEEL NO BITTERNESS, NO REGRET...
PLOP
snap!
snik!
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
HAVE I DIED? IS THAT IT?
ARTHUR...
RUN...

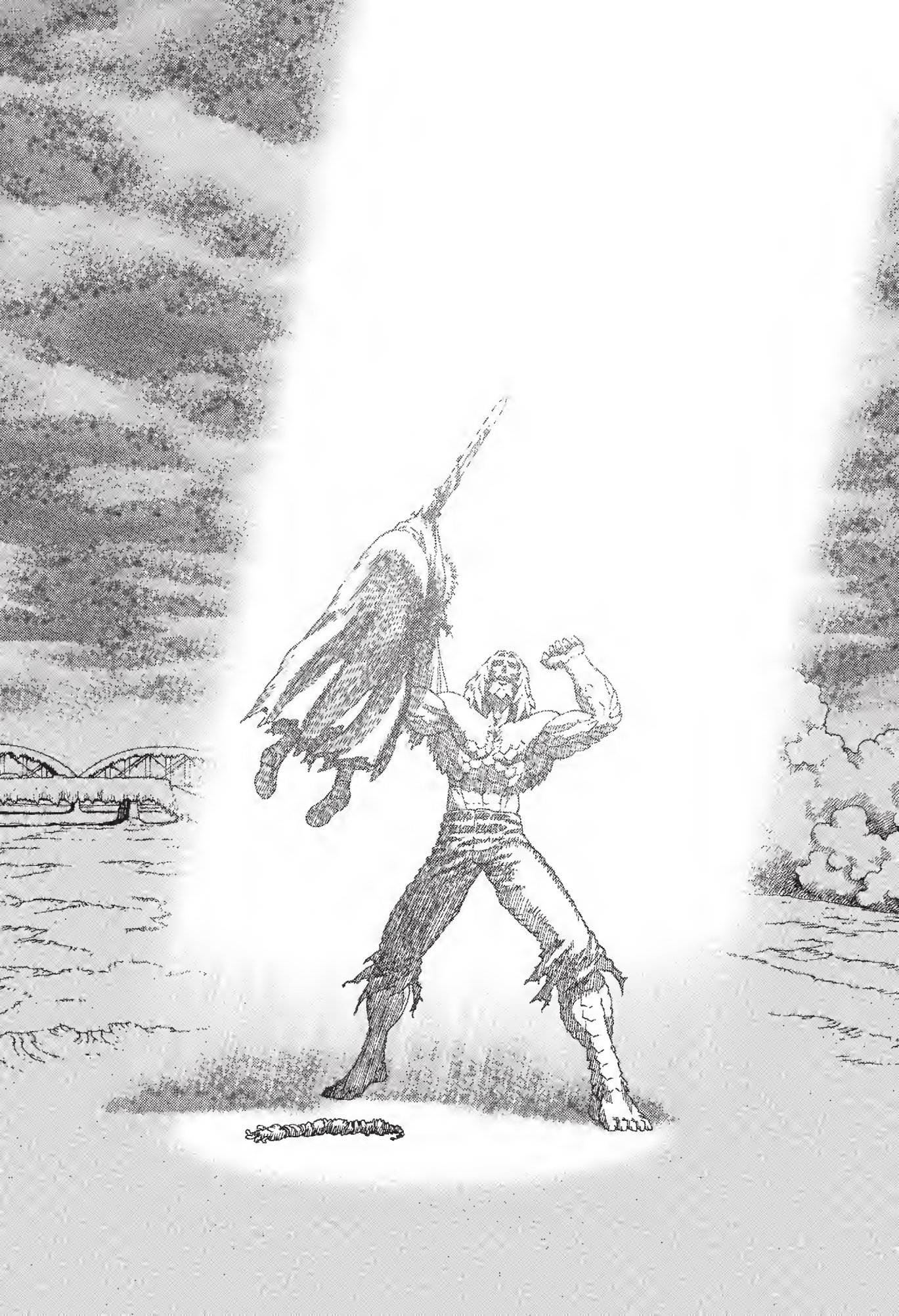
MY DEAR VILMA! NO ONE ELSE...
AH!



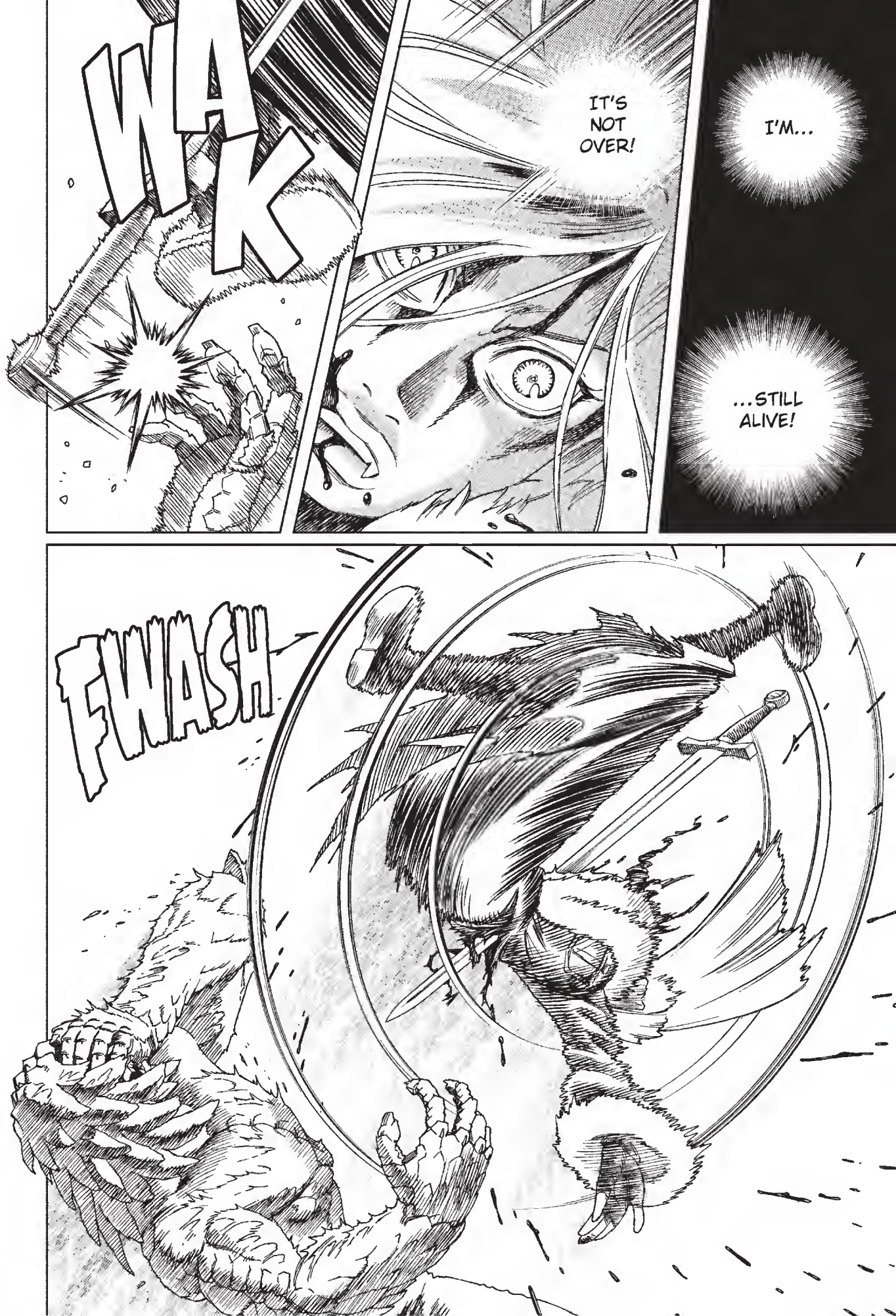

PLSH


YOUR BLOOD AND FLESH AND SOUL...
...SHALL HAVE YOU!


...ARE ALL MINE!
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA!
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA!
FOR-EVER!
HA...

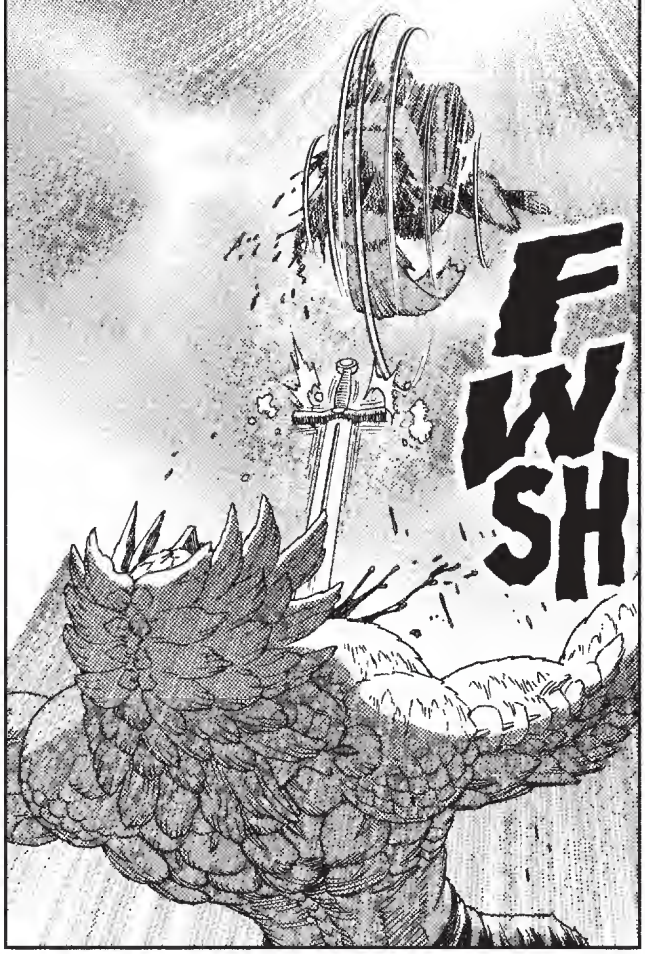


UNH!
GAH!
AAH?!
SO MUCH LIGHT! WHAT IS IT?
CAN IT BE...
THE SUN?!
IT...
...IT'S HOT!

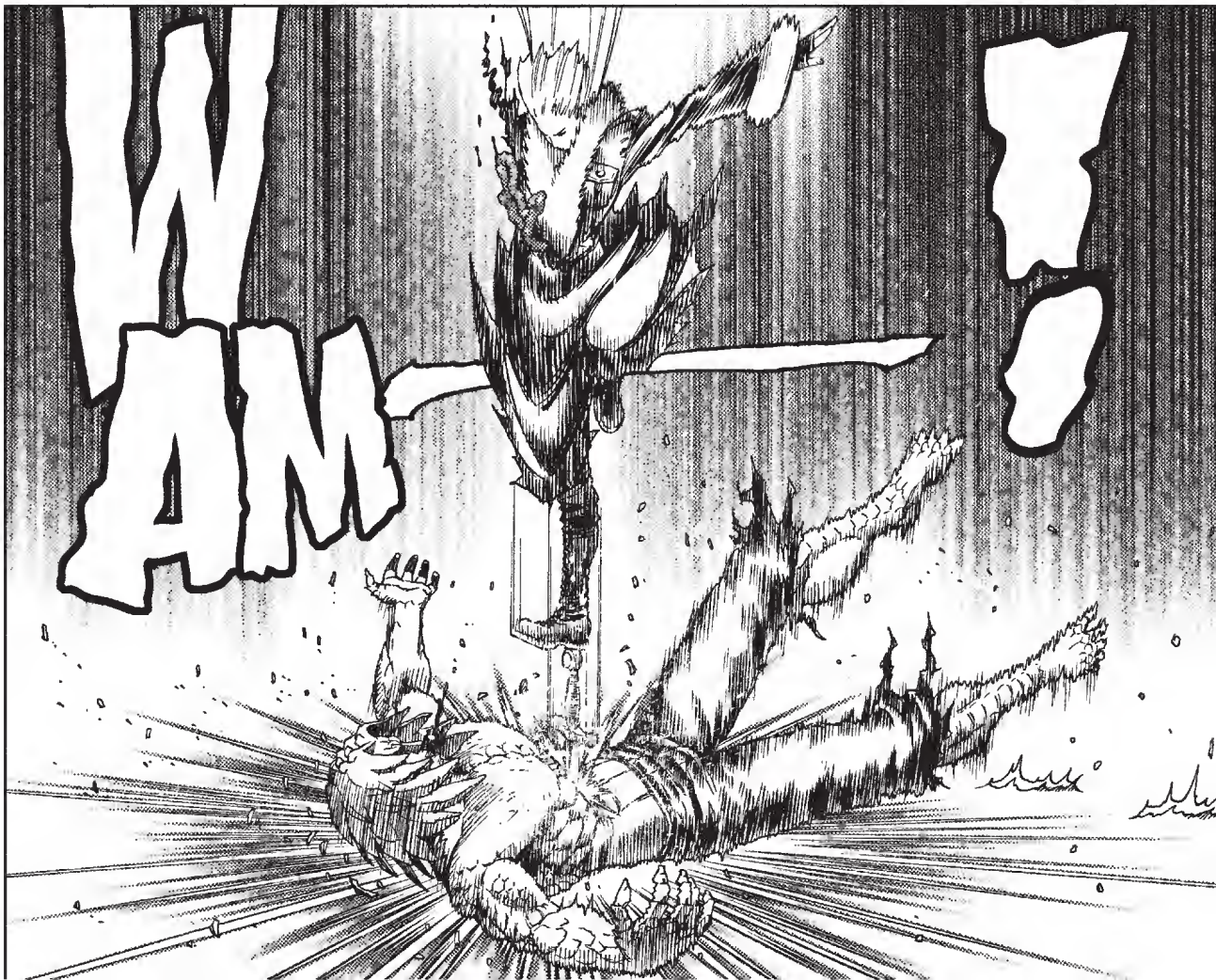

WA
K
IT'S NOT OVER!
I'M...
...STILL ALIVE!
FWASH

PLOK
SHLING
TCHK!

SLA
MAK!


FWSH

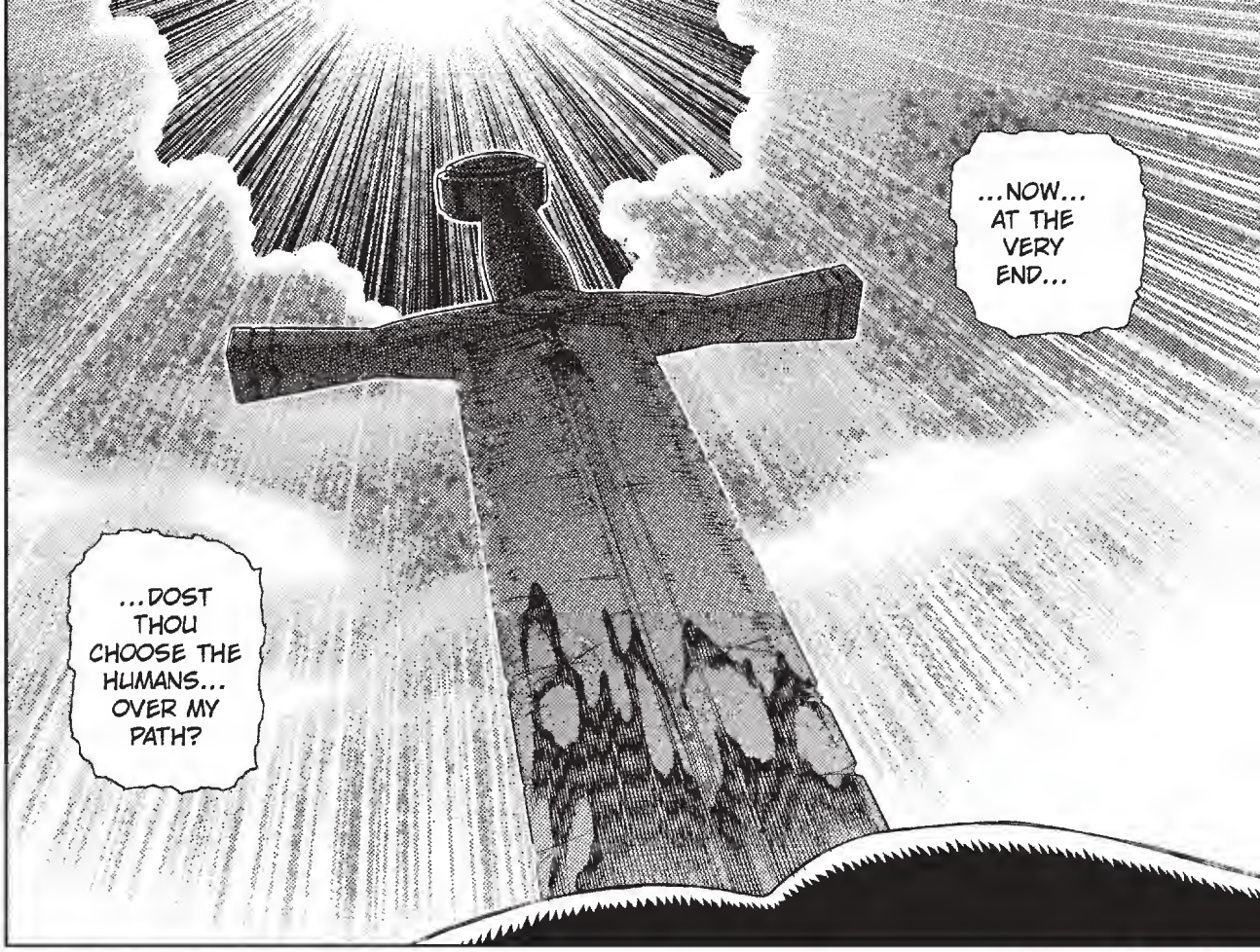
KRIK
KRAK
KRUK
GAH!

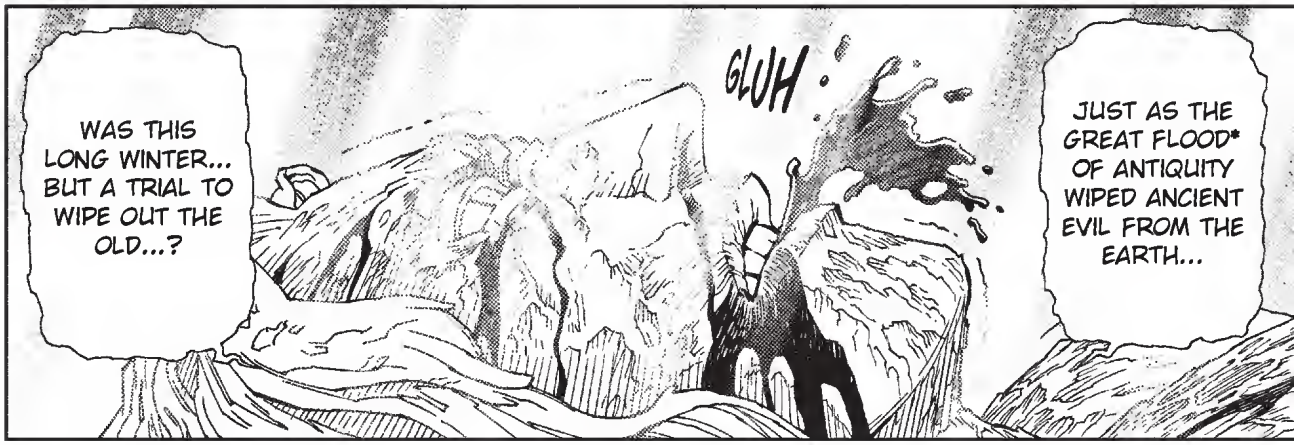

WAM-
!

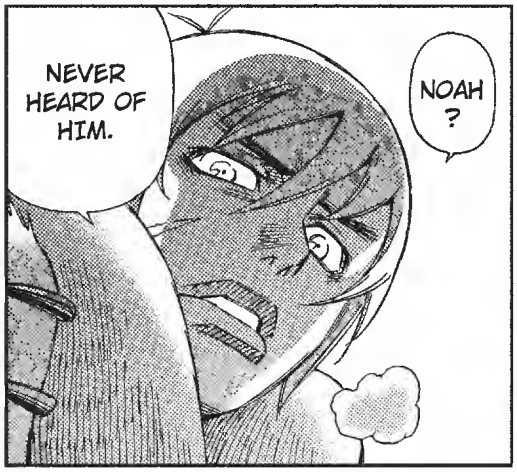
SPURK
KRAK
KRK
AH...
-:KOFF:-
WUD
WHAM
SLP

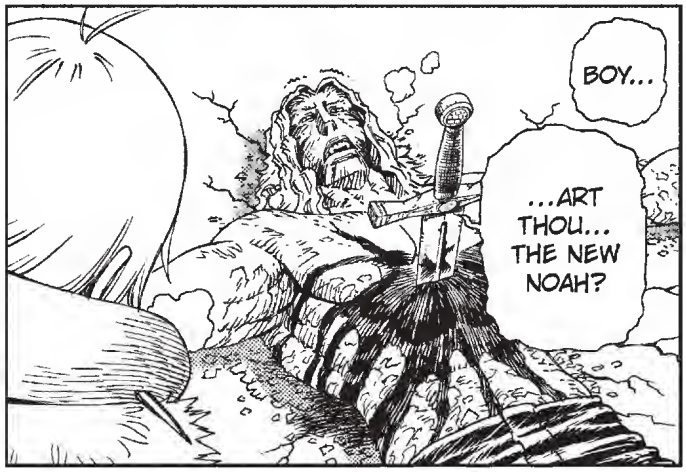
YAAAAY!
MERLIN'S PROPHECY HAS COME TRUE!
ACHOO!
YAAY!
SPRING IS HERE!
IT'S WARM, TOO!
IS THAT SKY BLUE?
WOW, IT IS BLUE!
urf
wrf
SHUP
SHAAAA
uff
hff
TMSH
TMSH

ARTHUR.
RADHA.
L...
LORD ...
TSH
HAF
HAF



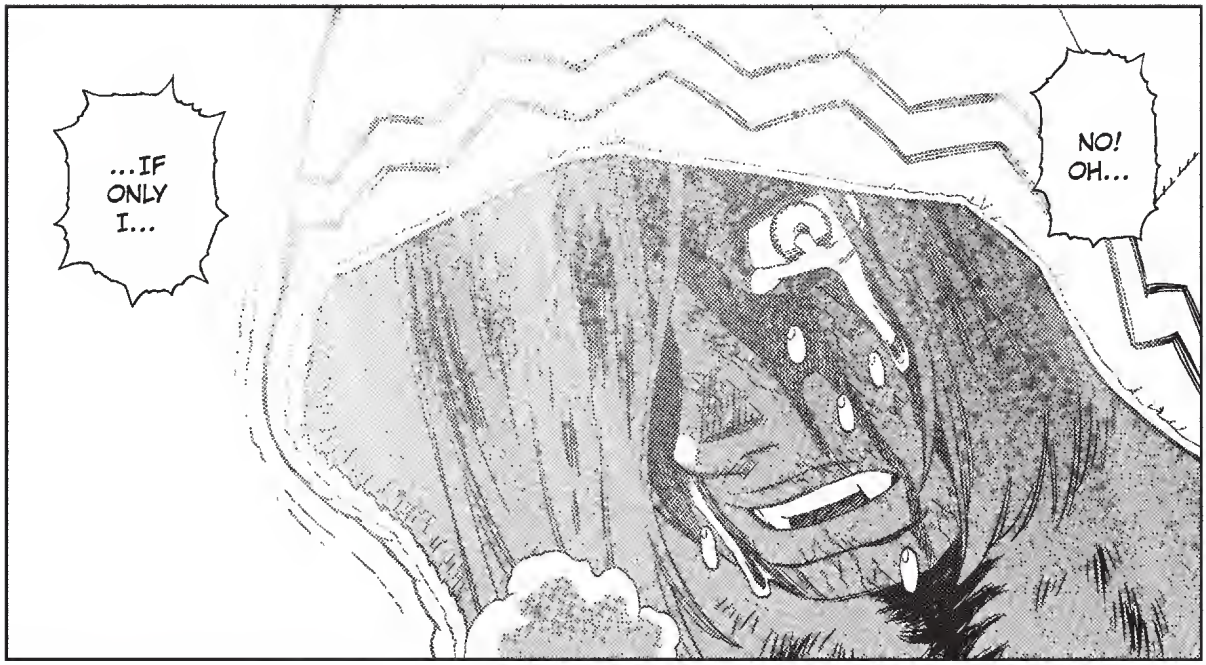






The Great Flood: *Genesis 6 of the Old Testament recounts a great flood sent by God to wipe out mankind, who has fallen from grace. Noah received a devine revelation from God and by His will, built an ark, on which he boarded his family and two of every animal to escape the coming disaster. Modern humans are considered to be the descendents of Noah's family.*

LET HIM SPEAK.
IT'S OKAY.
HARUKA NEVER GOT TO SEE–
WOULD YOU JUST SHUT UP...?
VICTOR...
VILMA... I FEEL SUCH PITY FOR THEE...
VILMA, THOU WILT LIVE IN SOLITUDE, SHARING YOUR EXISTENCE WITH NO ONE...
YET THOU MUST WATCH OVER THE FATE OF MANKIND...!
DOST THOU NOT SEE...
...THAT THE PEOPLE THOU TRUST WILL NEVER REPAY THY KINDNESS...?


...IF ONLY I...
NO! OH...

...THOU MUST NEVER WEEP AGAIN!
NEVER SHOW A MOMENT OF WEAK-NESS!

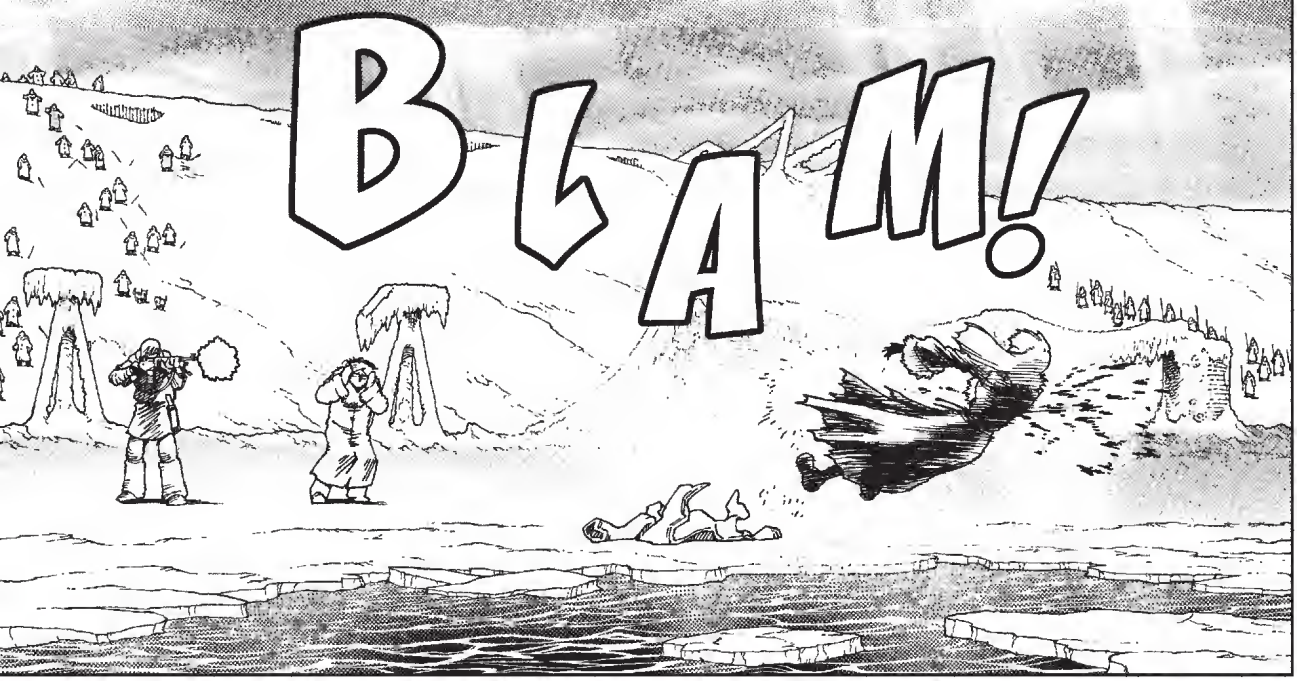
HUSH. IF THOU SHEDST THOSE TEARS FOR ME...
...IF THOU STILL LOVEST ME...

.....
I DON'T GET IT... NOT AT ALL...
AFTER TRYING SO HARD TO KILL EACH OTHER...HOW CAN THEY STILL CARE SO MUCH?
WOOSH
WAH?!
KRIK
KRAK
THIS SUDDEN HEAT SPELL IS CRACKING THE RIVER ICE!
THE SHORE! RUN!

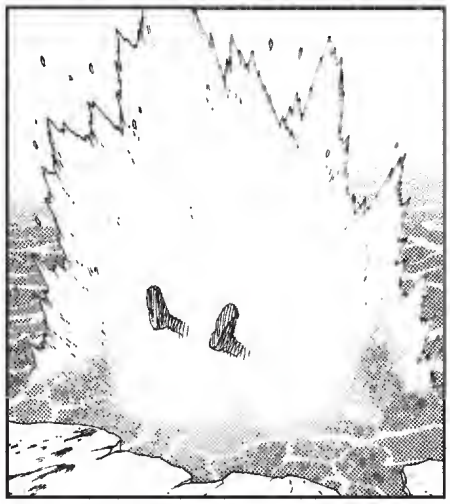
...VILMA...
LIVE FOR ALL TIME...
SPLUSH

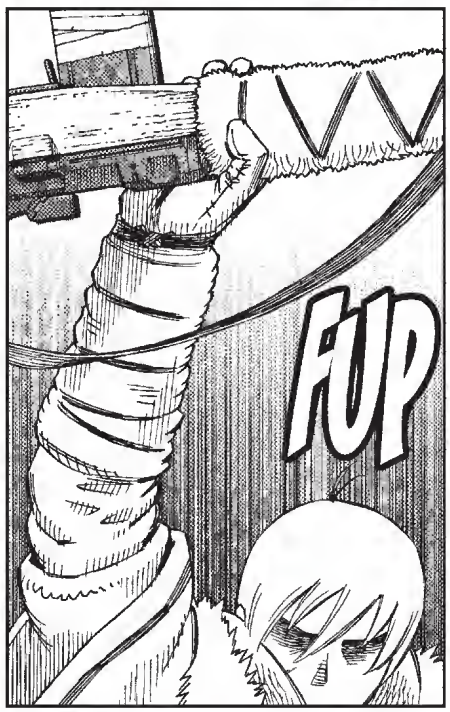
.....
BLUB UB UB
PLISH
BLAM

!
AH!
!
ARTHUR!
TINK!
!
GO AHEAD...
.....


BLAM!

WOOOOOH!
ARTHUR GOT RID OF THE VAMPIRES!
HE DID IT!




FUP

And thus Vilma Fachiri...
...last of the ancient Cognate...
...met her end...

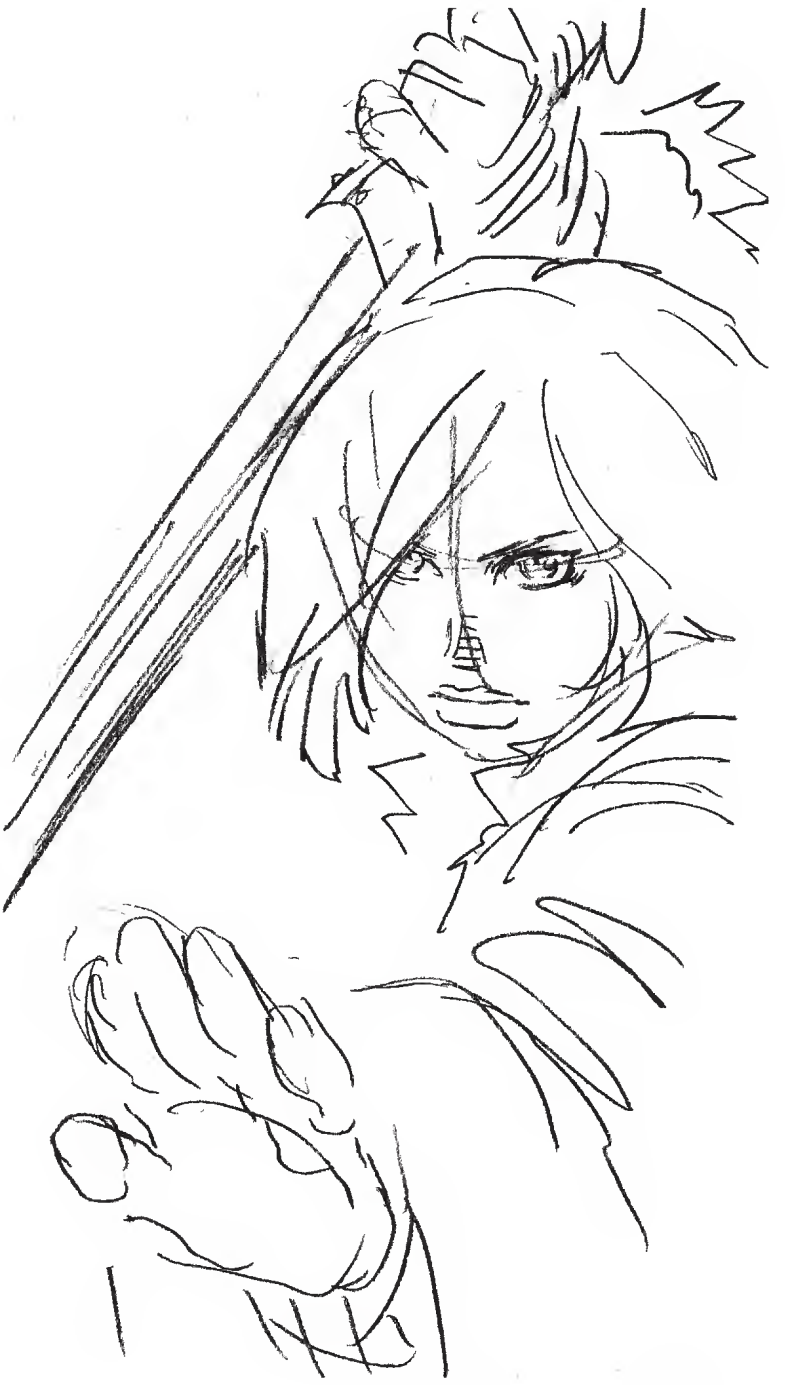
KLANG
DAMN! NO WAY!
ONLY A SHRIVELED UP OLD MUMMY?!
QUIET!
KATUNK
...MUST BE SOME RICH CRAP IN THIS COFFIN!
VRRMM
WAK
WAK
WAK
WHAT... WHAT'S THIS...?
BAM
BAM

GNN
DIDJA FIND ANYTHING, HILL?
WHO SAID THIS'D BE A TREASURE TROVE, HUH?!
TNK
BUNCHA OLD ARMS!
AGH!
BAP
PAP
STOP GOOFIN' OFF, YA MORON! GEEZ!

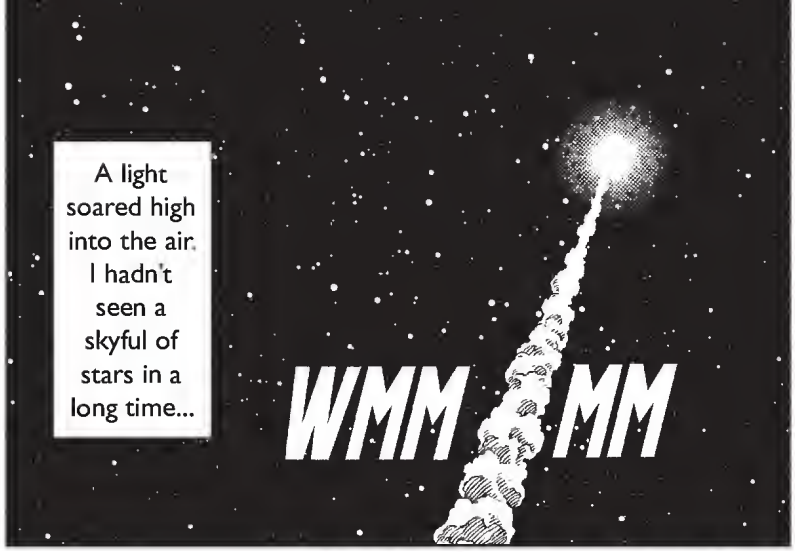
AHH!
Z-ZOMBIE ?!
YEEEK!
BAM
BAM
SPUK!

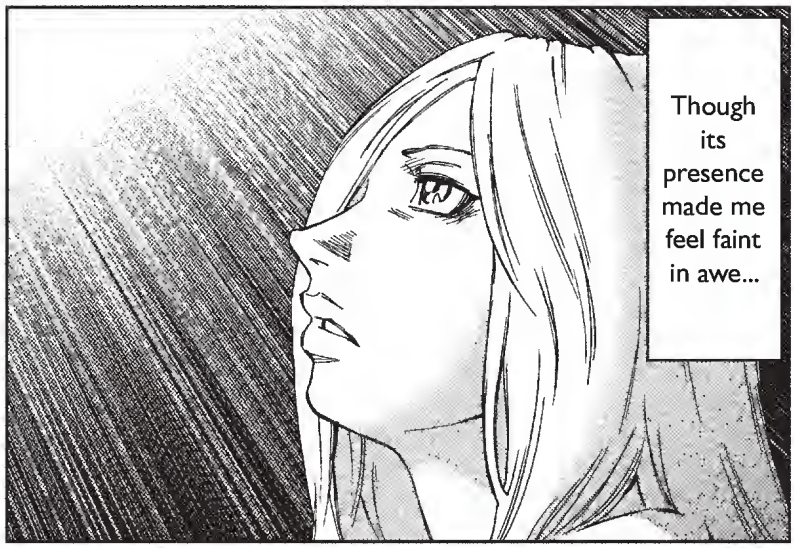
TCH
TCH
I died...
...Yet I still breathe among the living?
>SLRP<
...?
Just what exactly is going on...?
My right arm... It's as if it was never torn off...
FASH!

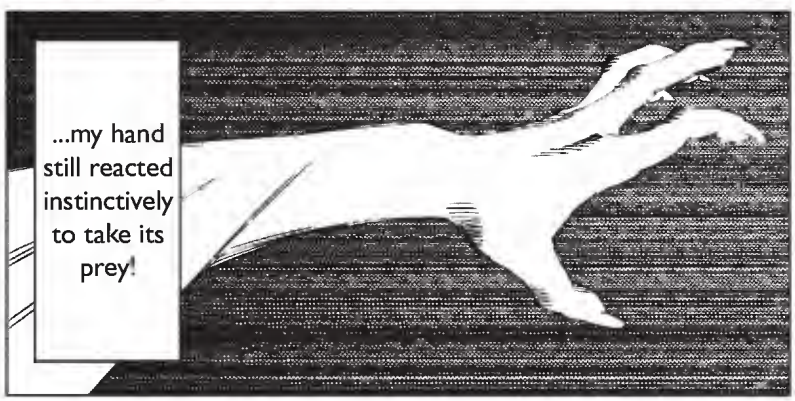
WOOOOOM



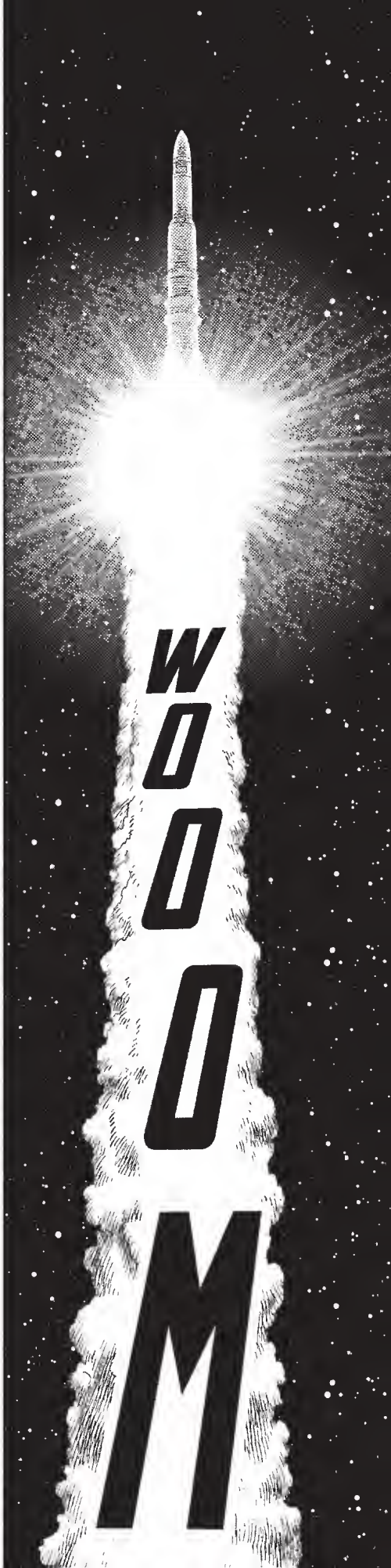
PHASE 55:
I Learned

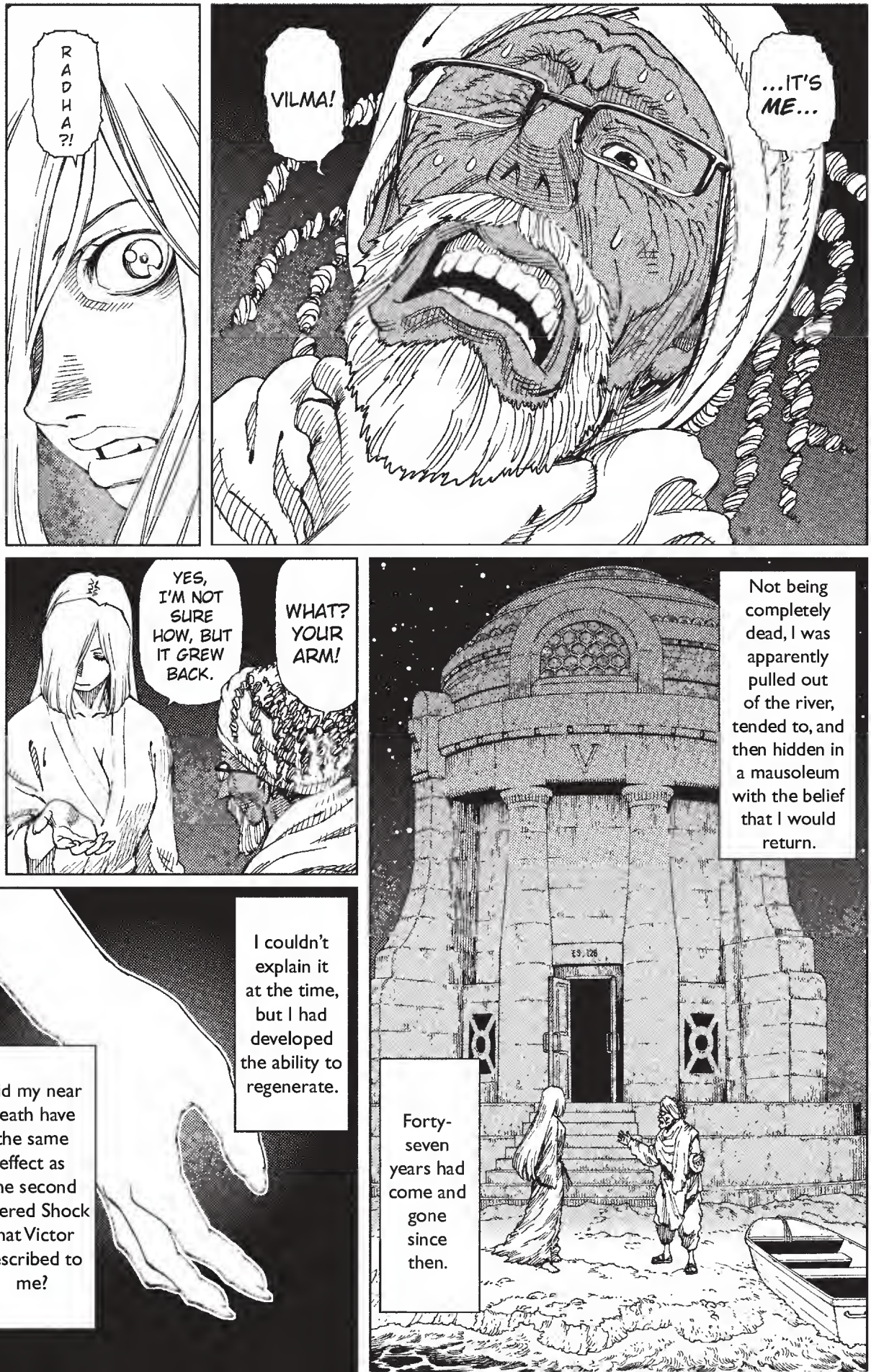

A light soared high into the air. I hadn't seen a skyful of stars in a long time...
WMM MM


Though its presence made me feel faint in awe...


...my hand still reacted instinctively to take its prey!

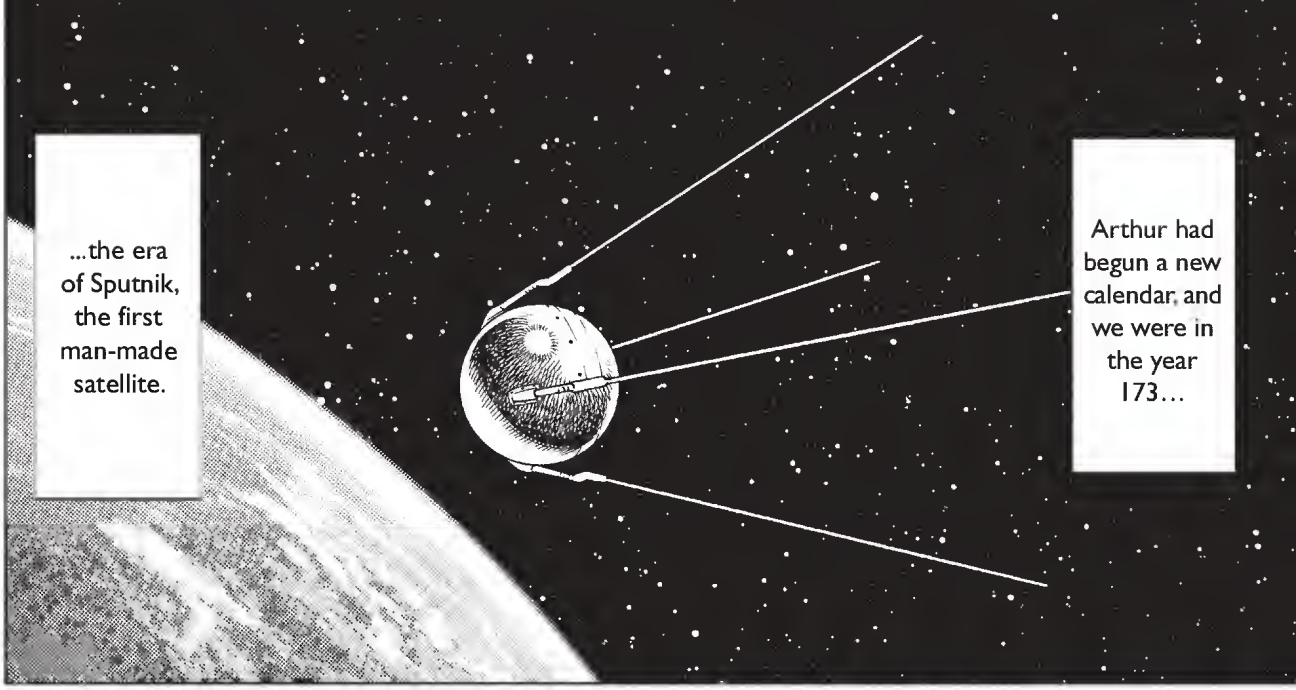
GUH!
WAIT! IT...


WOOOM

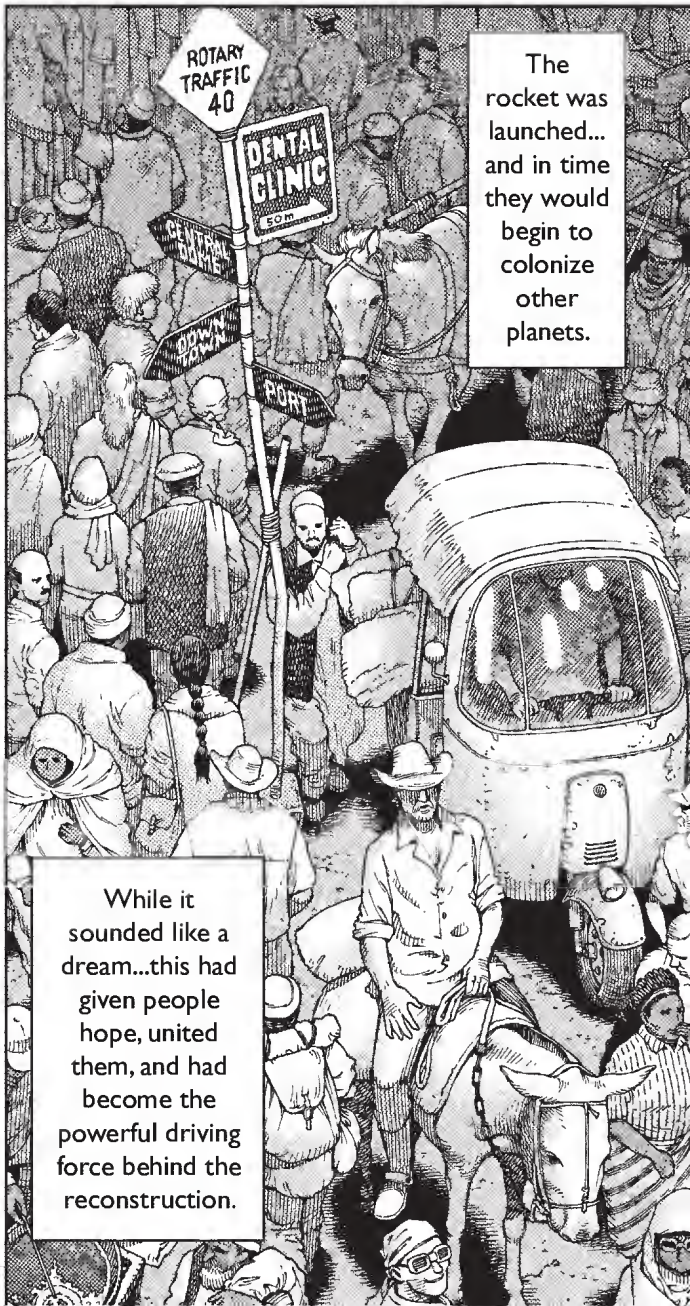

RADHA?!
VILMA!
...IT'S ME...
YES, I'M NOT SURE HOW, BUT IT GREW BACK.
WHAT? YOUR ARM!
Not being completely dead, I was apparently pulled out of the river, tended to, and then hidden in a mausoleum with the belief that I would return.
Forty-seven years had come and gone since then.
I couldn't explain it at the time, but I had developed the ability to regenerate.
Did my near death have the same effect as the second Altered Shock that Victor described to me?

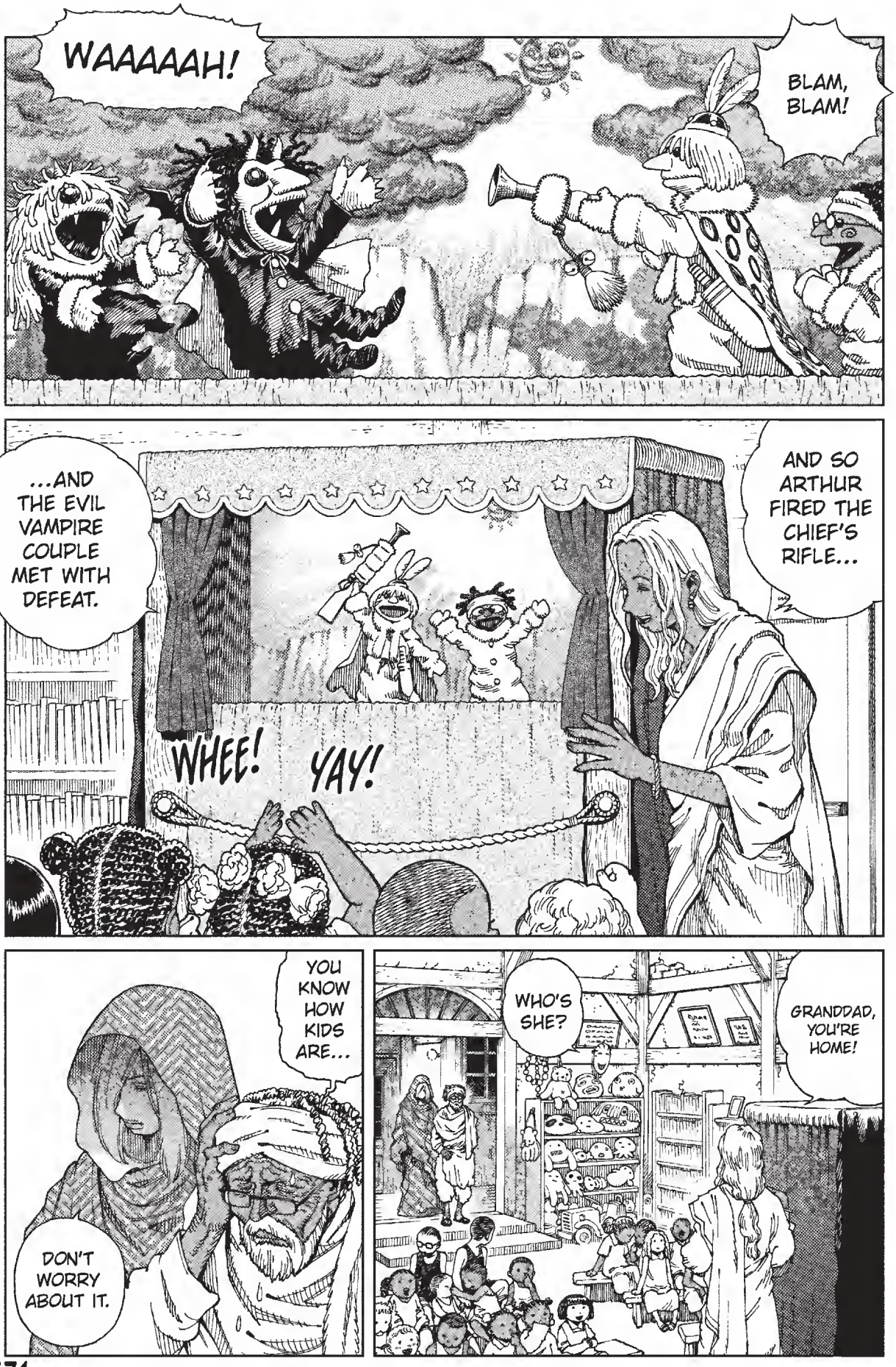
IT'S SO WARM.
VUM VUM VUM VM...
THE ICE AGE ENDED, BUT NOW THE SEA LEVEL IS RISING.
THE BRADLEY SHELTER AND THE RUINS WHERE YOU FOUGHT—ALL UNDERWATER NOW.
IS ARTHUR WELL?
DON'T BLAME HIM, VILMA!
AS THE LEADER, HE HAD NO CHOICE! HE HAD TO SHOOT YOU...
BUT HE TOLD ME TO TAKE CARE OF YOU...
IT'S OKAY.
I DON'T BLAME HIM...

Star City
(later the Scrapyard)
On the western ruins, they built a city whose entire function was to launch that rocket.


...the era of Sputnik, the first man-made satellite.
Arthur had begun a new calendar, and we were in the year 173...

Merlin was moved to the Central Tower, upgraded, and though renamed to "Melchizedek", it continues in active service.
Behind it all, was Merlin's predic-tion...


ROTARY TRAFFIC 40
DENTAL CLINIC
50m
PORT
The rocket was launched... and in time they would begin to colonize other planets.
While it sounded like a dream...this had given people hope, united them, and had become the powerful driving force behind the reconstruction.


WAAAAAH!
BLAM, BLAM!
...AND THE EVIL VAMPIRE COUPLE MET WITH DEFEAT.
AND SO ARTHUR FIRED THE CHIEF'S RIFLE...
WHEE!
YAY!
YOU KNOW HOW KIDS ARE...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
WHO'S SHE?
GRANDDAD, YOU'RE HOME!

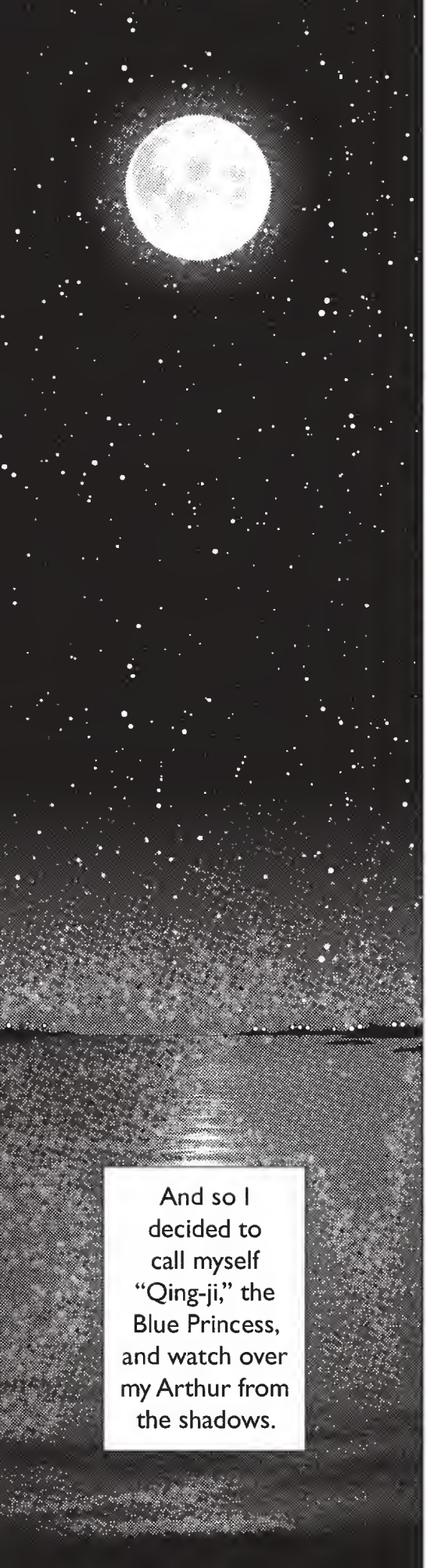
For me, this was a comfort...
Official histories made no mention of the Cognate, who were now but a legend.
Best they overlook me, than treat me as a hero.
...for no matter how I may try to justify it...I did betray and kill my dear husband.

RA AA AH

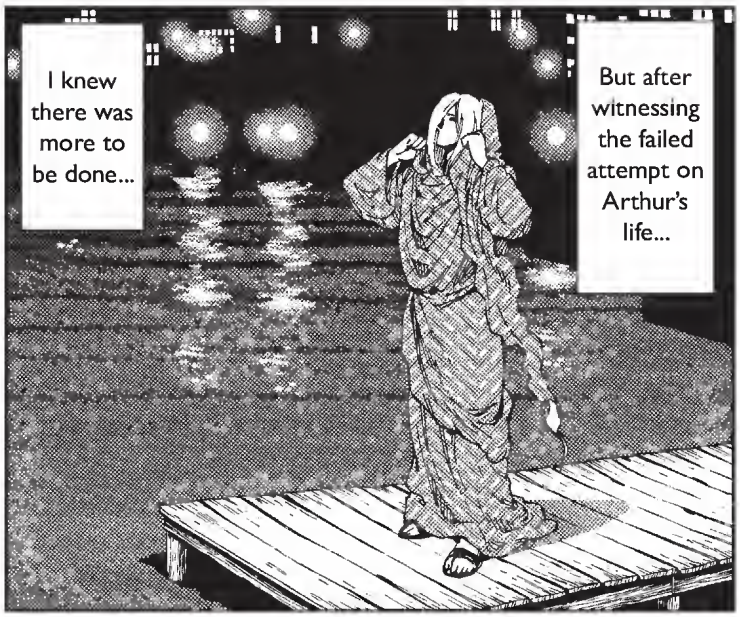
Y AAY!

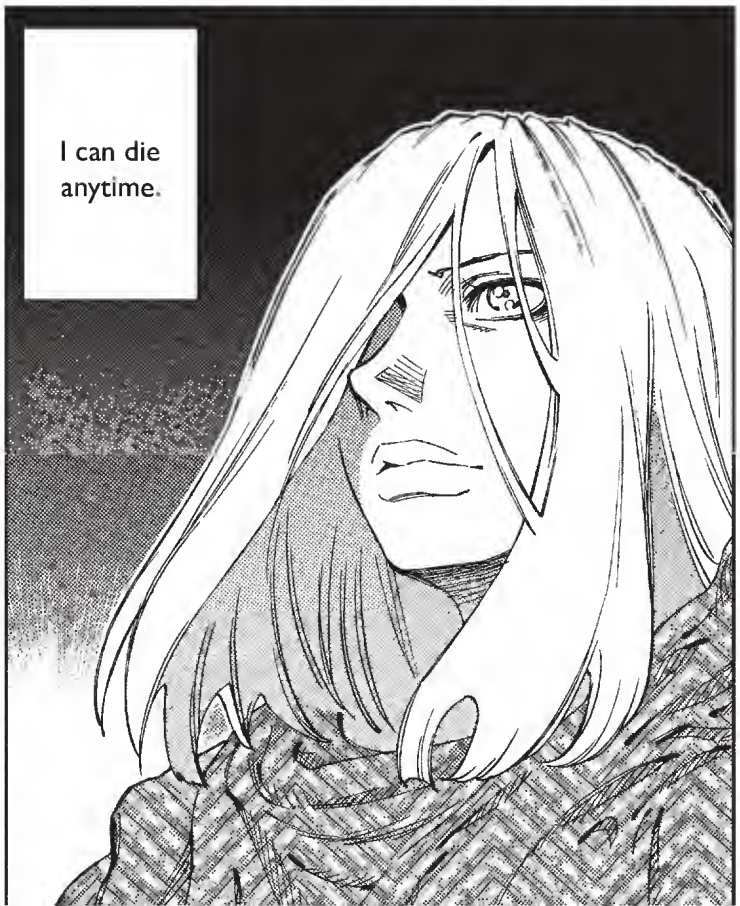
...YOU'VE BECOME, ARTHUR...
WHAT A FINE MAN...
NOW I CAN DIE IN PEACE.
WMP

WHIP
WOOOSH
KRAK
?!
STAND BACK, SIR!
WE GOT 'IM!
EEK!
BLAM
BLAM
A GUN!



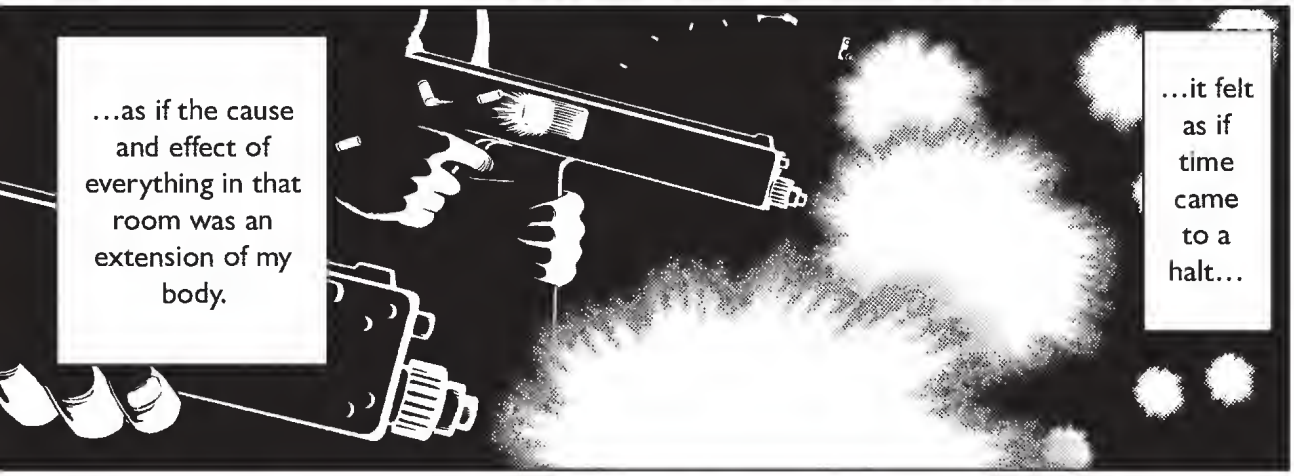
I thought I had no more attachment to this world.

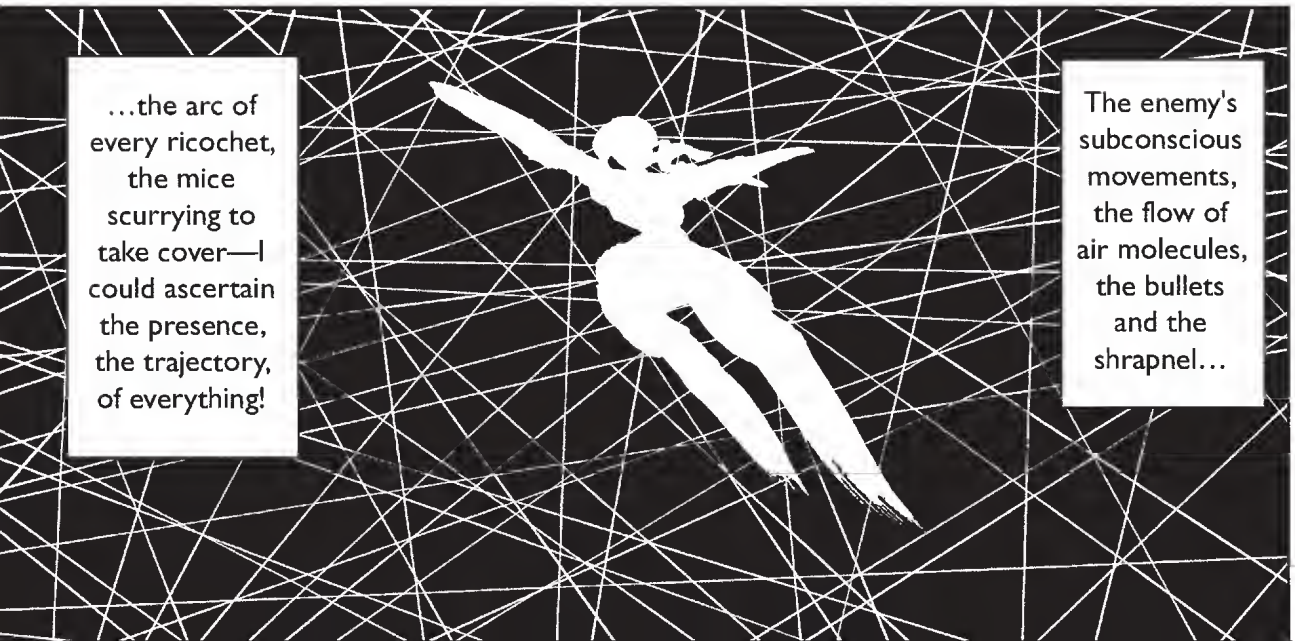


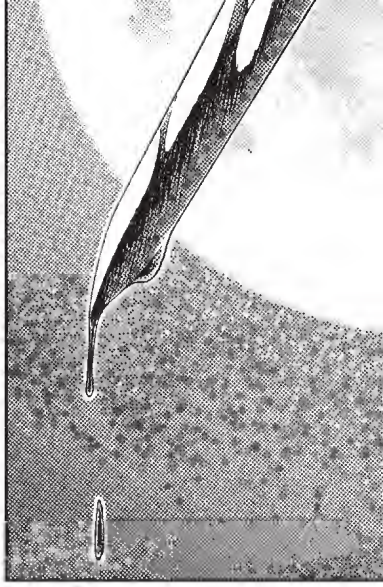


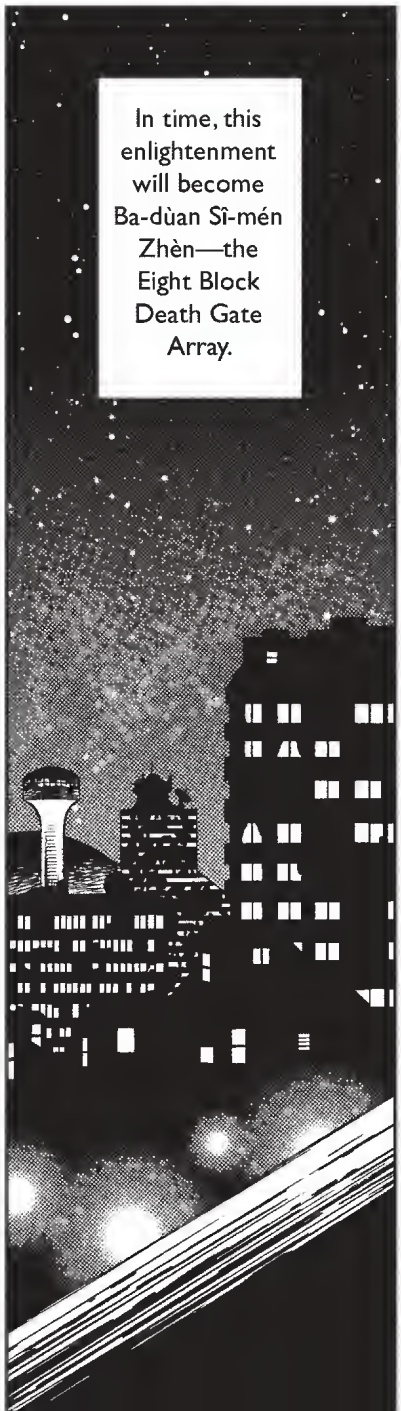
One day, I had a most curious experience.

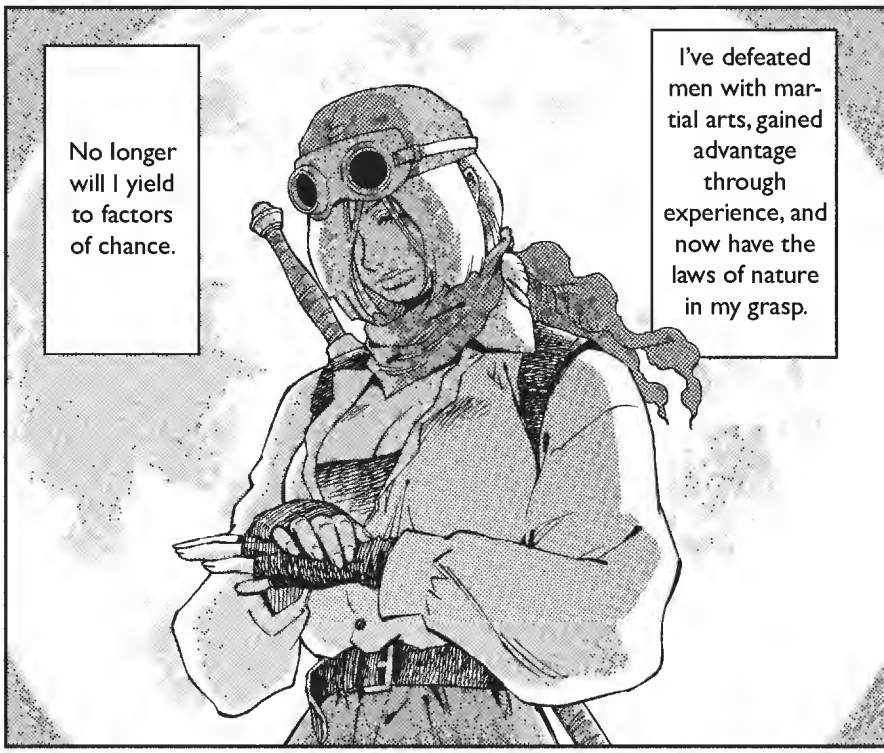
Assassins on every side of me, caught in a barrage of machine gun crossfire...

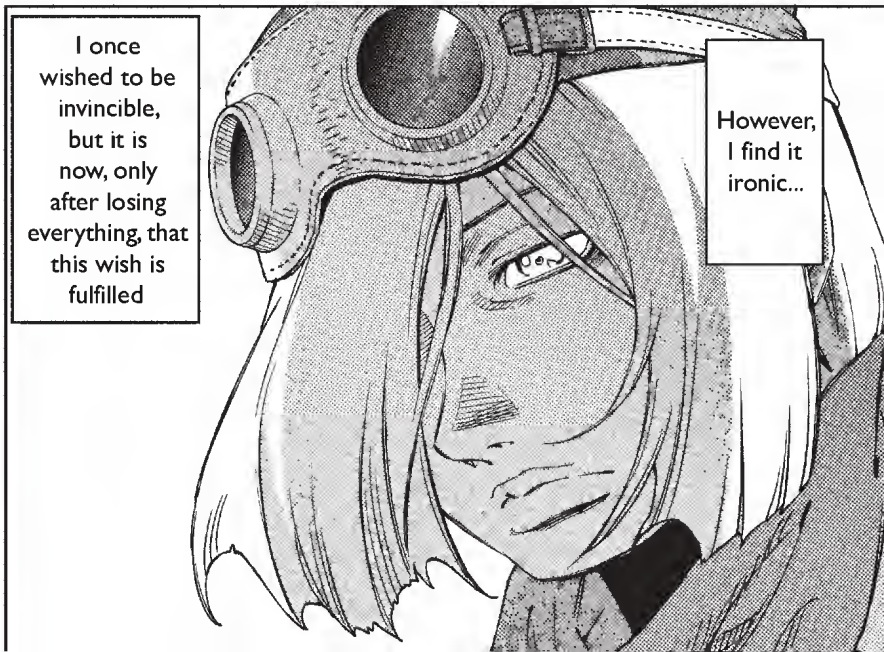

...as if the cause and effect of everything in that room was an extension of my body.
...it felt as if time came to a halt...


...the arc of every ricochet, the mice scurrying to take cover—I could ascertain the presence, the trajectory, of everything!
The enemy's subconscious movements, the flow of air molecules, the bullets and the shrapnel...



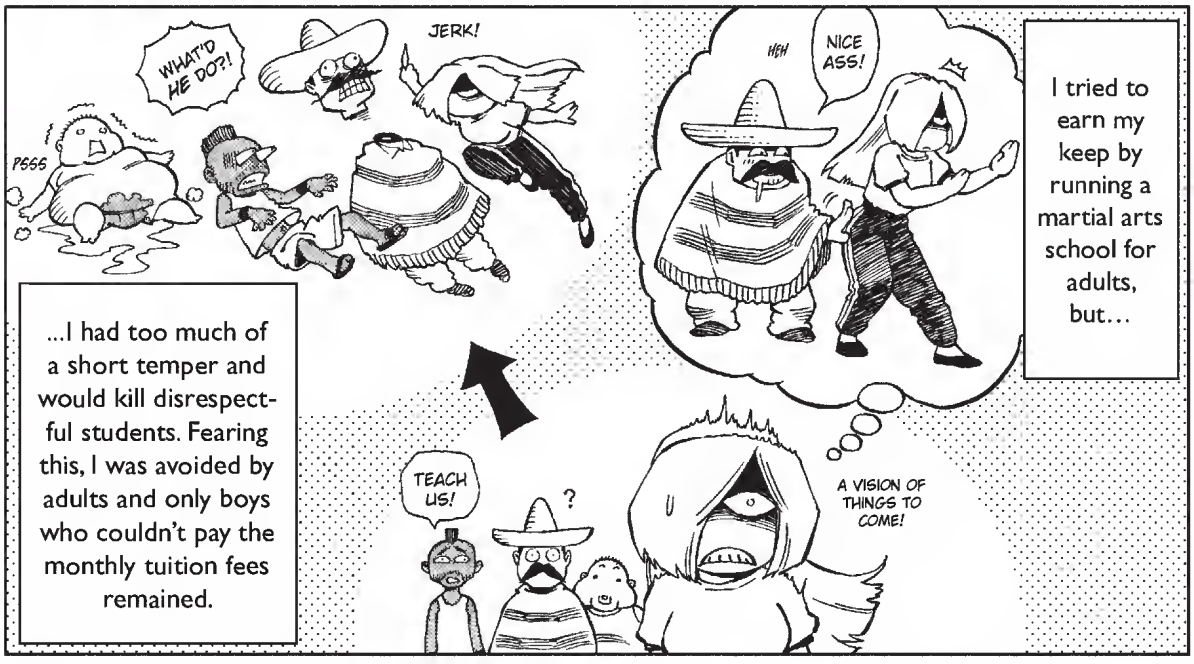

In time, this enlightenment will become Ba-dùan Sî-mén Zhèn—the Eight Block Death Gate Array.

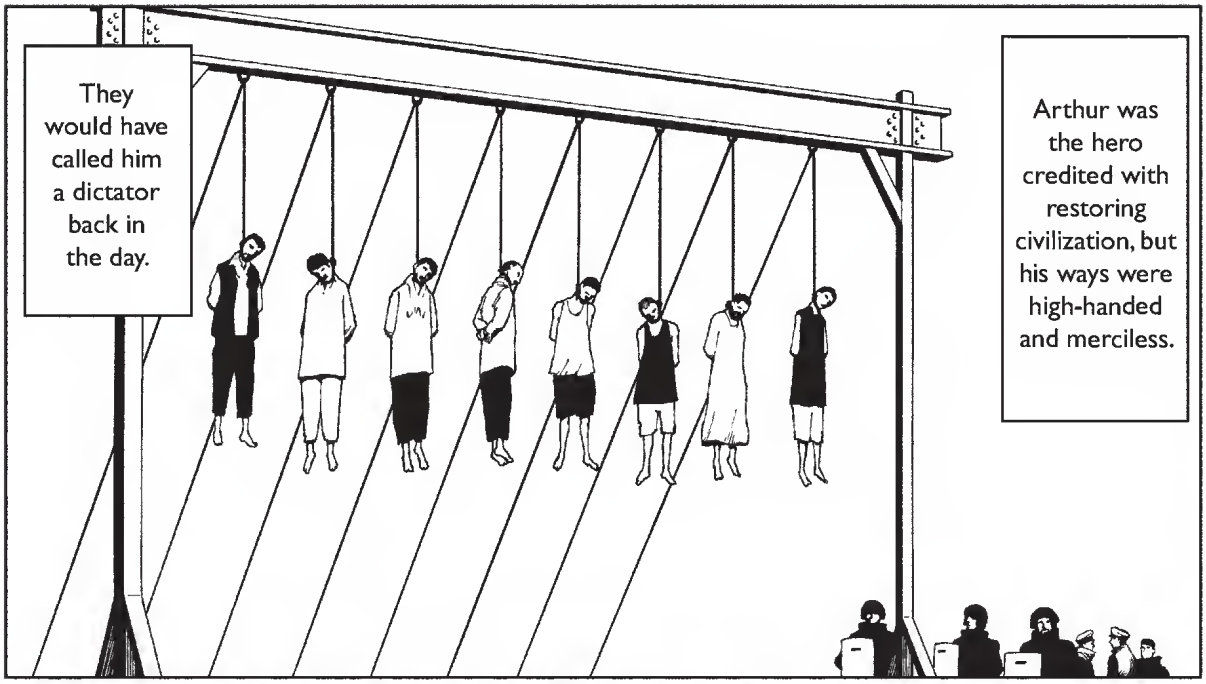

No longer will I yield to factors of chance.
I've defeated men with martial arts, gained advantage through experience, and now have the laws of nature in my grasp.

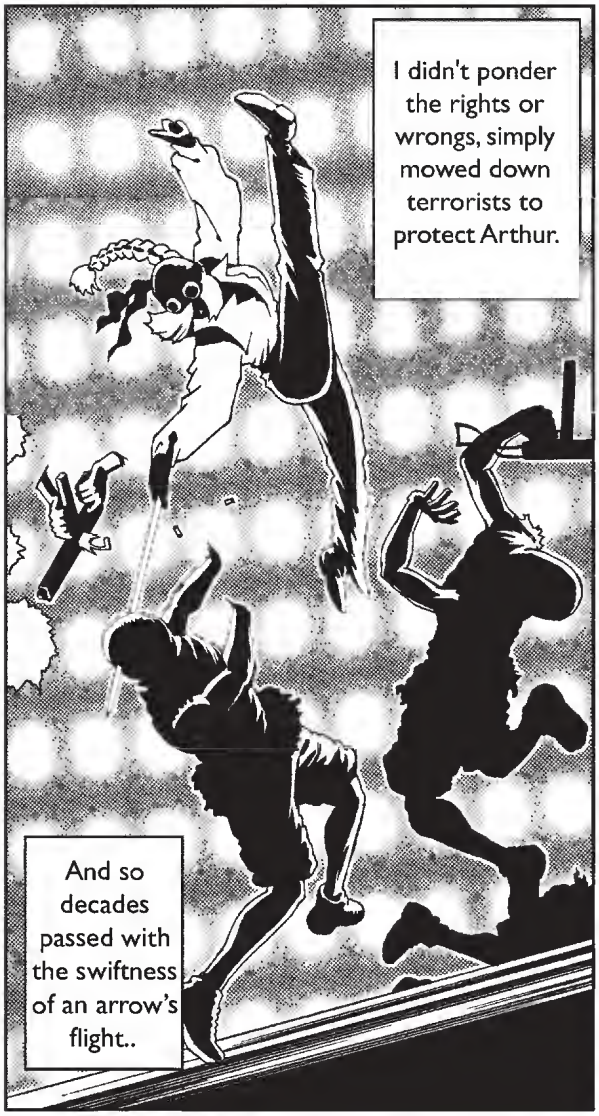

I once wished to be invincible, but it is now, only after losing everything, that this wish is fulfilled
However, I find it ironic...

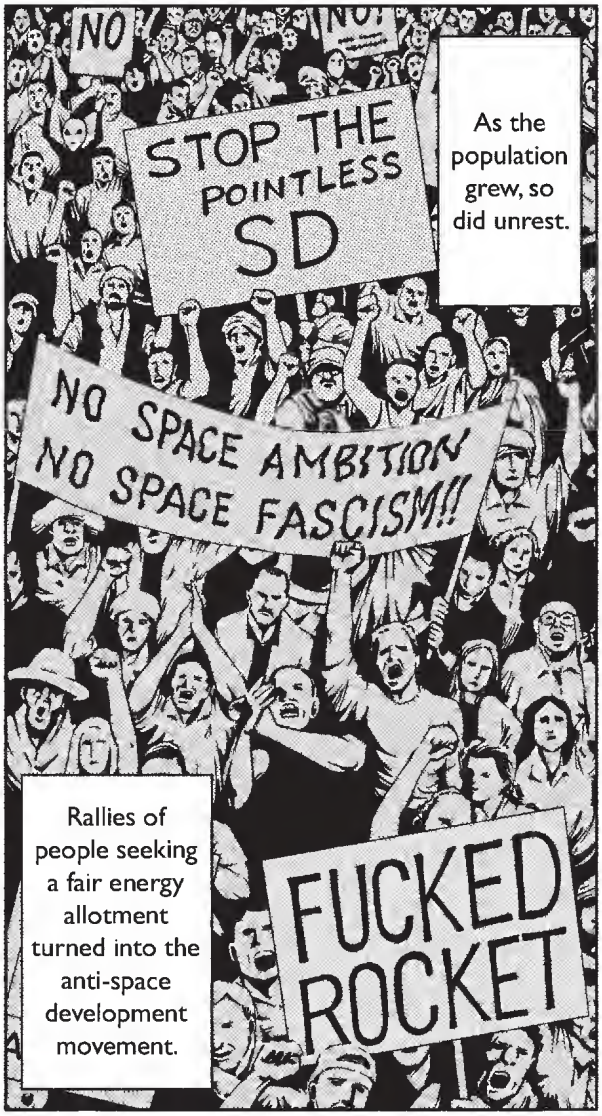
He died amidst his children and grandchildren, having lived a happy life.
Radha died five years later. He was 71.

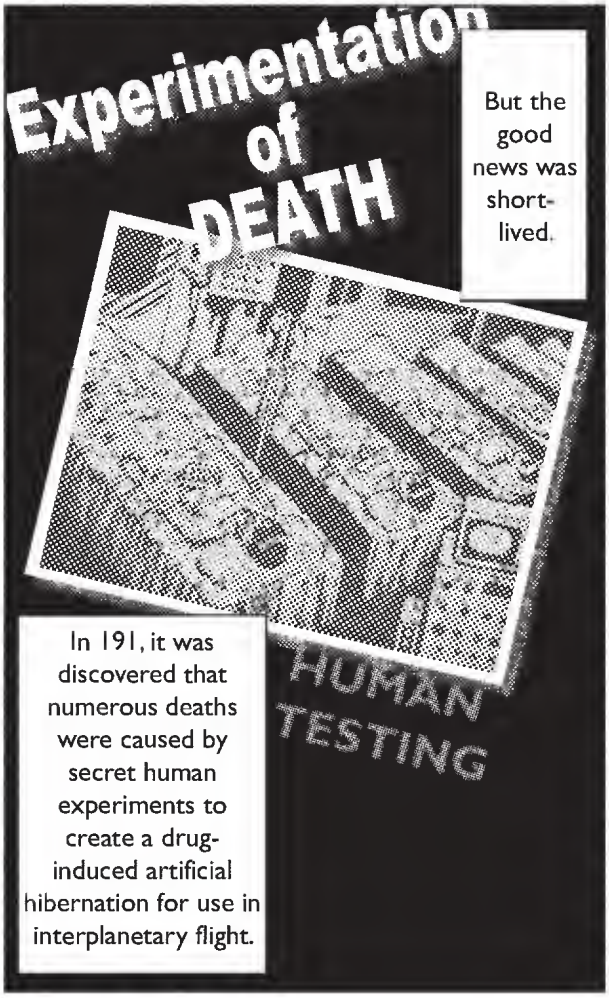
I lived at Cometica, a school for orphans run by Radha's granddaughter, Susheela.
Radha's family turned out talented engineers and just officials.

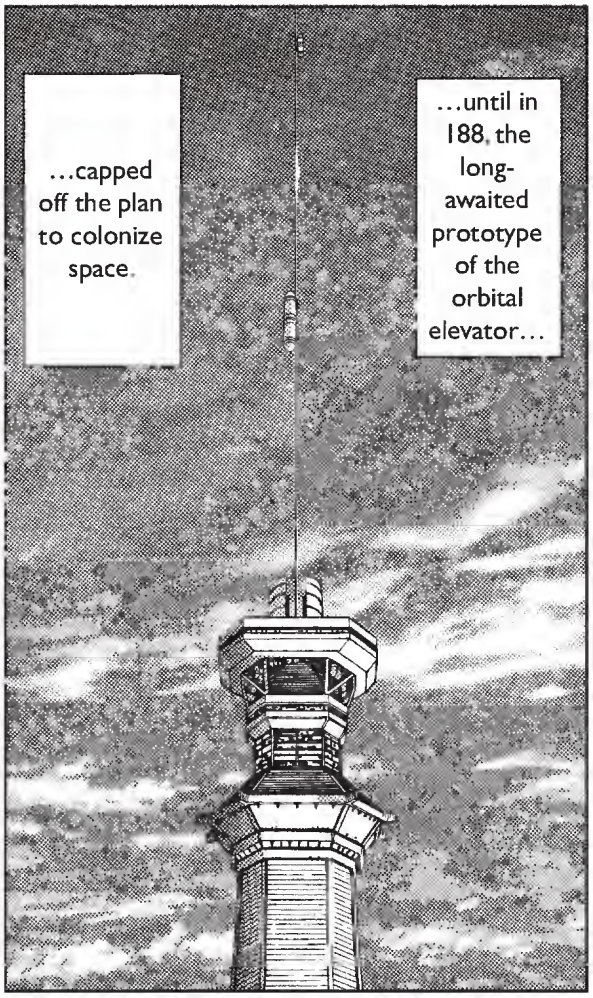

WHAT'D HE DO?!
JERK!
PSSS
HEH
NICE ASS!
I tried to earn my keep by running a martial arts school for adults, but...
...I had too much of a short temper and would kill disrespectful students. Fearing this, I was avoided by adults and only boys who couldn't pay the monthly tuition fees remained.
TEACH US!
?
A VISION OF THINGS TO COME!


They would have called him a dictator back in the day.
Arthur was the hero credited with restoring civilization, but his ways were high-handed and merciless.

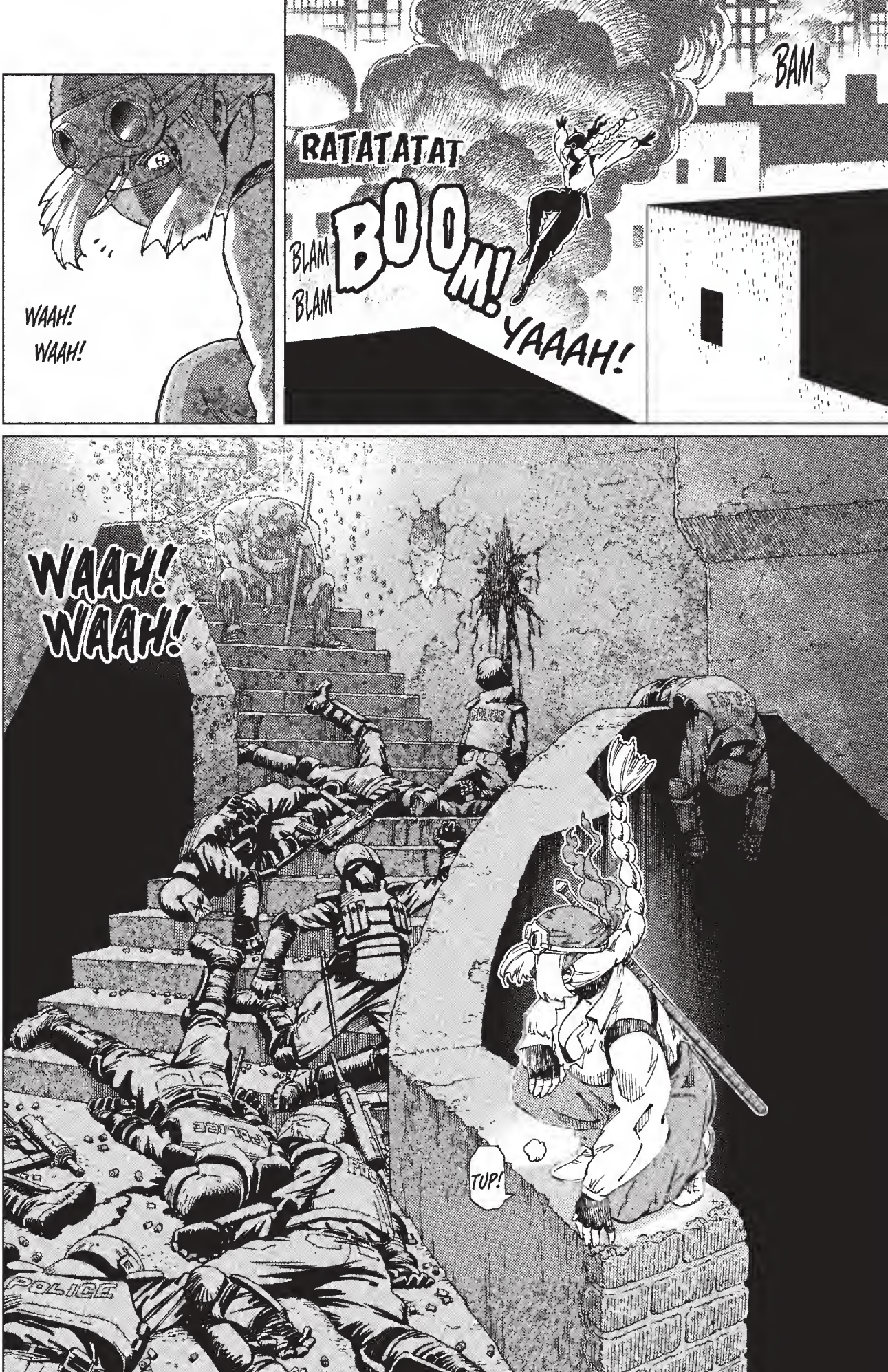

I didn't ponder the rights or wrongs, simply mowed down terrorists to protect Arthur.
And so decades passed with the swiftness of an arrow's flight..


NO
STOP THE POINTLESS SD
NO SPACE AMBITION
NO SPACE FASCISM!!
FUCKED ROCKET
As the population grew, so did unrest.
Rallies of people seeking a fair energy allotment turned into the anti-space development movement.


Experimentation of DEATH
HUMAN TESTING
But the good news was short-lived.
In 191, it was discovered that numerous deaths were caused by secret human experiments to create a drug-induced artificial hibernation for use in interplanetary flight.


...capped off the plan to colonize space.
...until in 188, the long-awaited prototype of the orbital elevator...

A crackdown on protests quickly turned them into riots, and Star City was plunged into civil-war-like chaos.

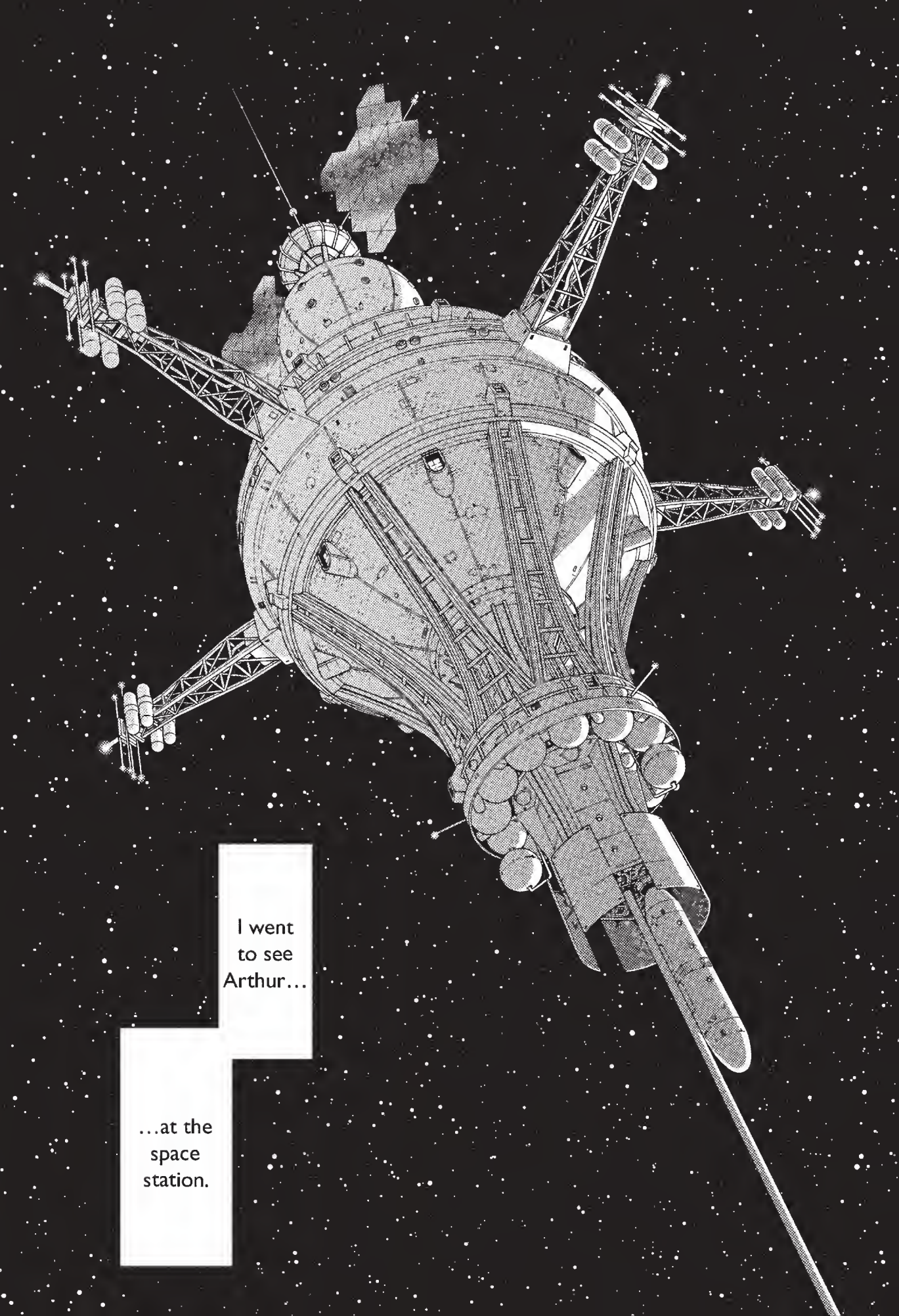

WAAH!
WAAH!
RATATATAT
BLAM
BLAM
BOOM!
BAM
YAAAH!
WAAH!
WAAH!
POLICE
TUP!

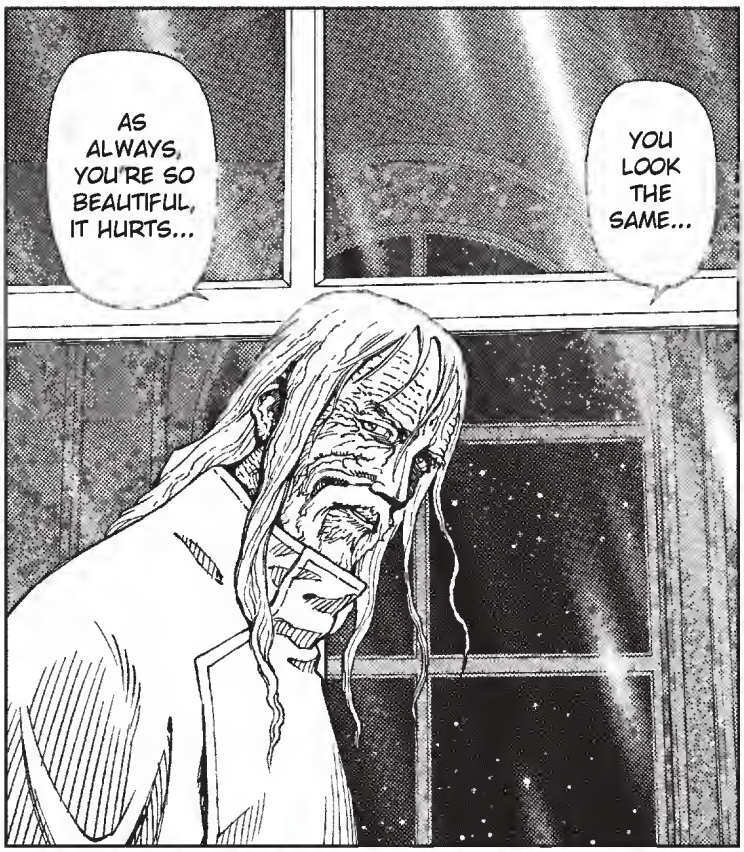
WUMP
HEY!
T-TAKE CARE OF MY SON...
WAAH!
WAAH!
I'd no way of knowing that later, on the Martian colony...
...this baby would be nicknamed "der Tiger" and lay the foundations of the Panzer Kunst.
YOUR FATHER WAS QUITE A MAN, KID.
HE FOUGHT OFF SO MANY COPS...

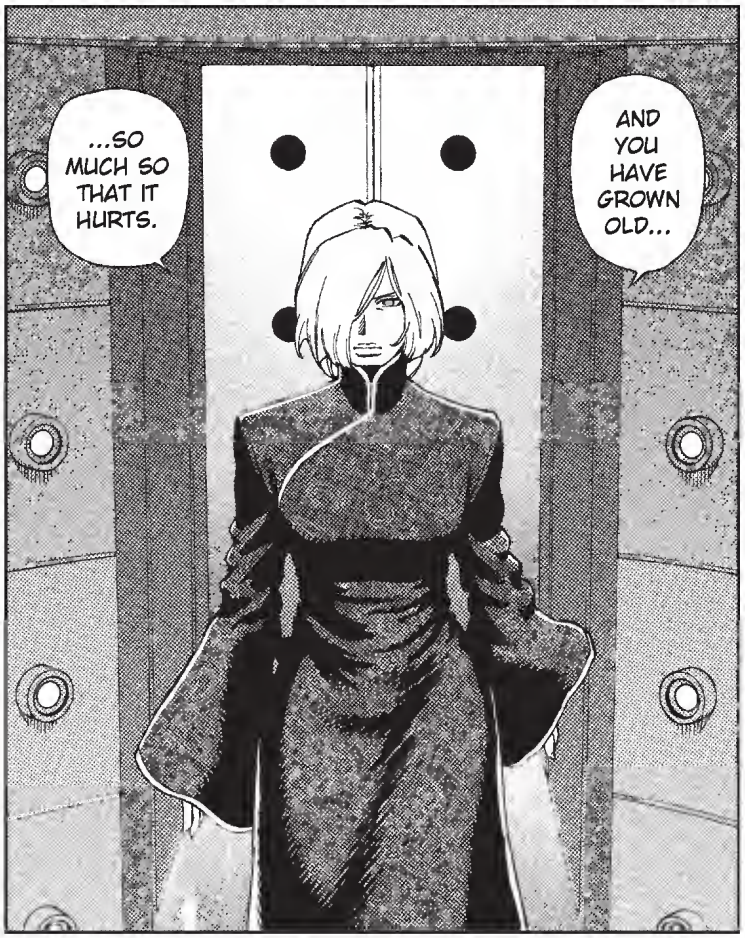
ROARR
By the time I got back, Cometica was ablaze.
OH, NO...
SHE'S BACK!
FOOSH
WE'RE SO SO SORRY, MASTER!

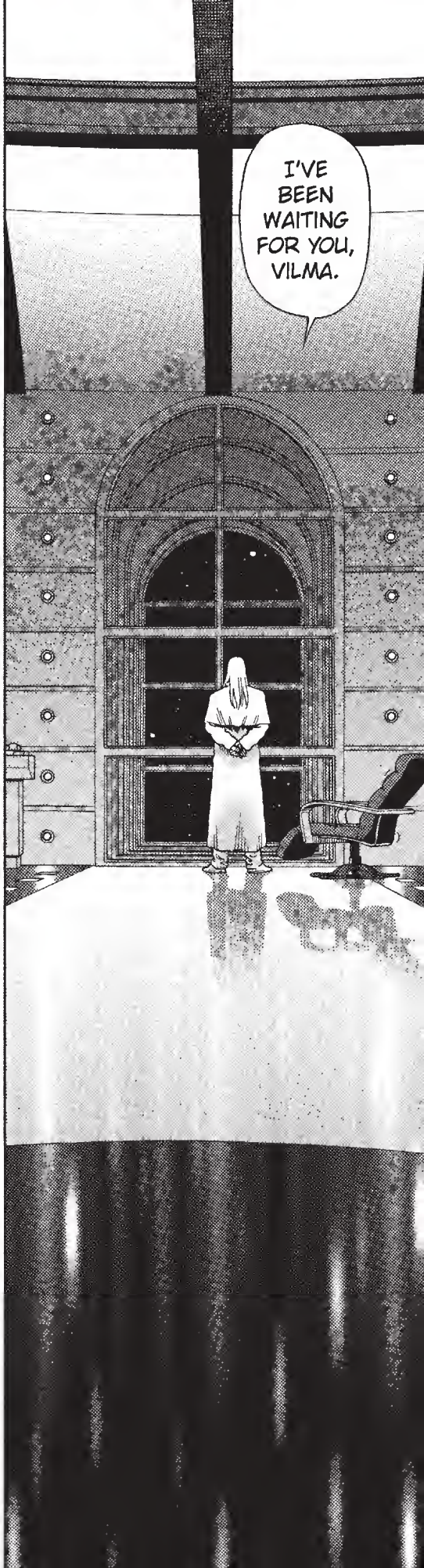
Mediocre students, and far from proficient, they would still instruct future generations.
WE MANAGED TO GET THE KIDS AND STAFF OUT SAFELY!
DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS, RIOTERS BROKE THROUGH!
These dimbulbs are the last of my class?
TON
Yuan-yang Dì-gong Qúan
Duck Fist
BUT IT'S OKAY!
SU
Dang-láng Qúan
Mantis Fist
KYO
Bái-hè Qúan
White Crane Fist
ARE YOU OKAY?!
DOOM
NOVICES!
M-more...
WAPAPAP
BUT WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THOSE EXPERIMENTS...
MY HUSBAND IS AN ENGINEER DOWNTOWN. THAT'S WHY THEY SET FIRE TO OUR ORPHANAGE...

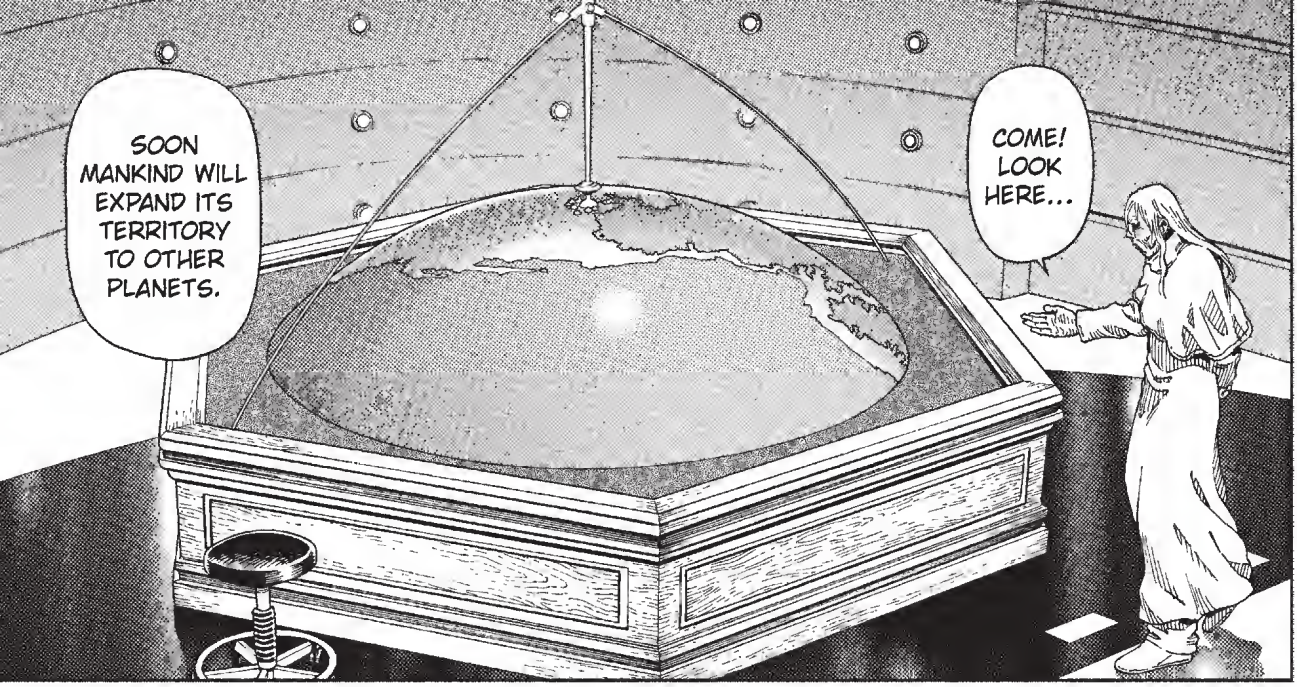
HOW CAN IT BE...?
IS THIS RIGHT, ARTHUR?
...BUT IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE *THIS!*
TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE, I HAD TO KILL VICTOR...
I'M NOT A FAN OF SUCH JOKES.
NO! IT CAN'T BE!
IS HE YOUR LOVE CHILD?!
TAKE THIS BABY.

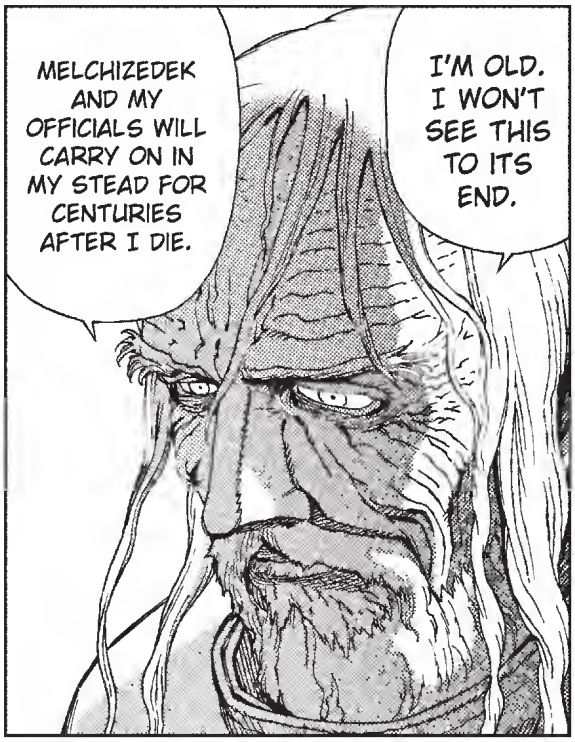

I went to see Arthur…
…at the space station.

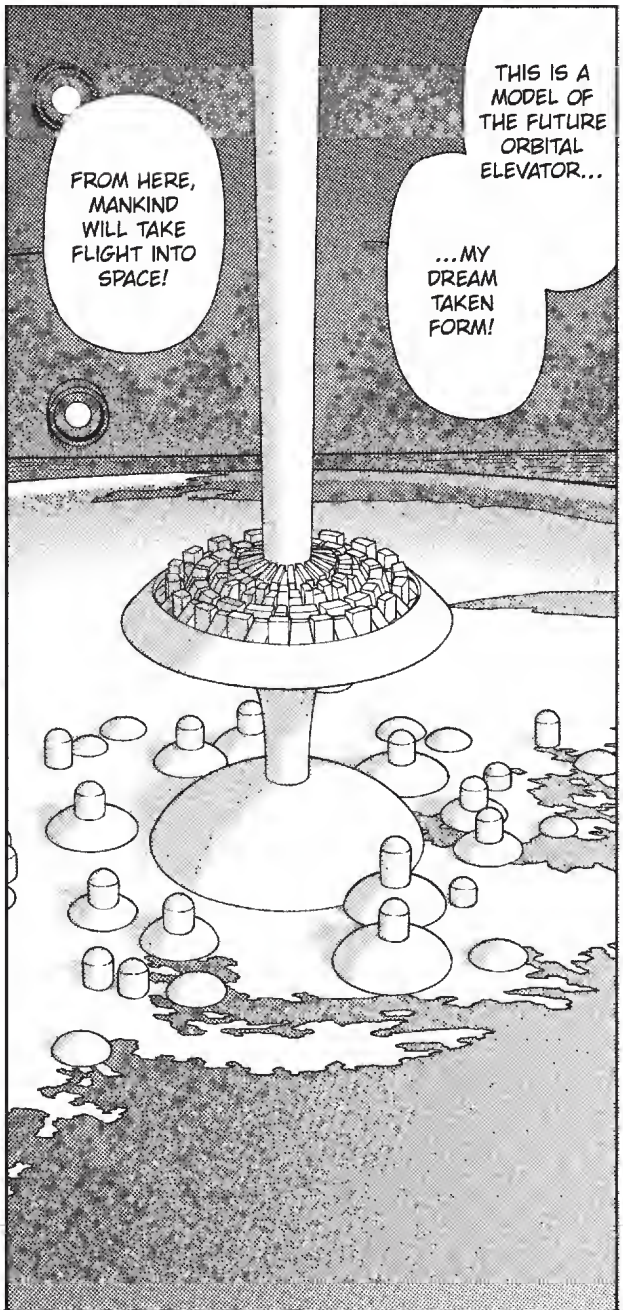

AS ALWAYS, YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL, IT HURTS...
YOU LOOK THE SAME...

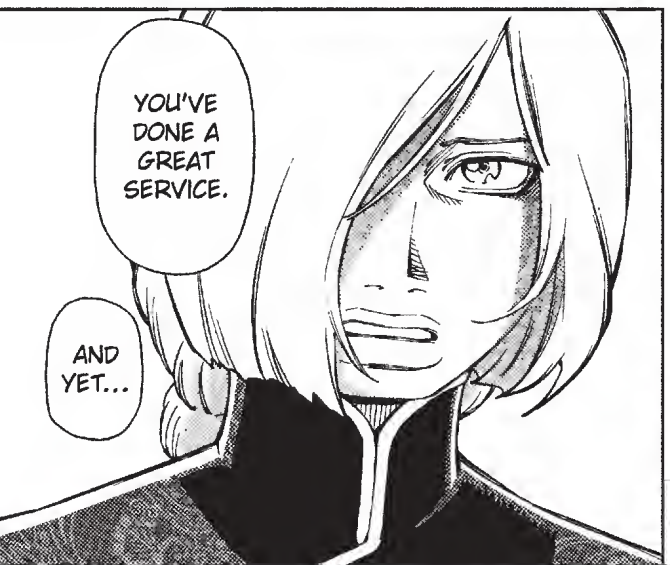

...SO MUCH SO THAT IT HURTS.
AND YOU HAVE GROWN OLD...


I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, VILMA.


SOON MANKIND WILL EXPAND ITS TERRITORY TO OTHER PLANETS.
COME! LOOK HERE...

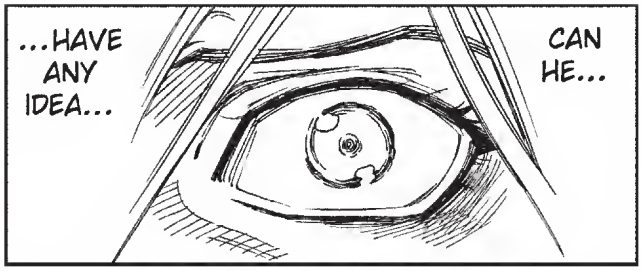

I'M OLD. I WON'T SEE THIS TO ITS END.
MELCHIZEDEK AND MY OFFICIALS WILL CARRY ON IN MY STEAD FOR CENTURIES AFTER I DIE.

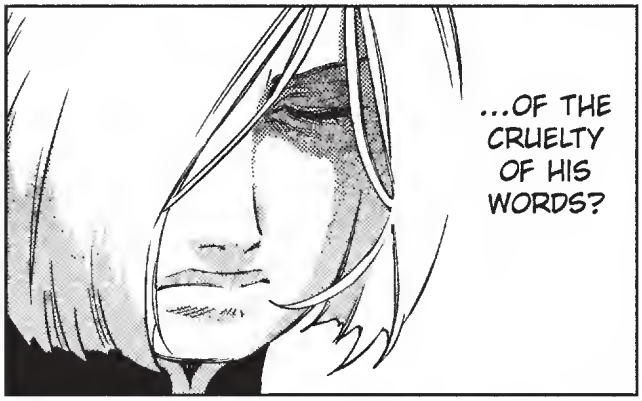

THIS IS A MODEL OF THE FUTURE ORBITAL ELEVATOR...
...MY DREAM TAKEN FORM!
FROM HERE, MANKIND WILL TAKE FLIGHT INTO SPACE!

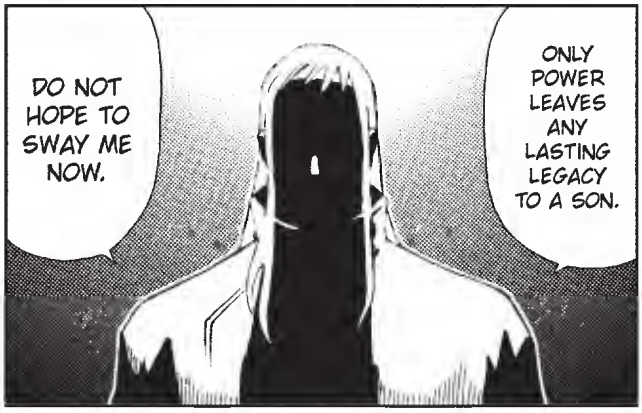

YOU'VE DONE A GREAT SERVICE.
AND YET...

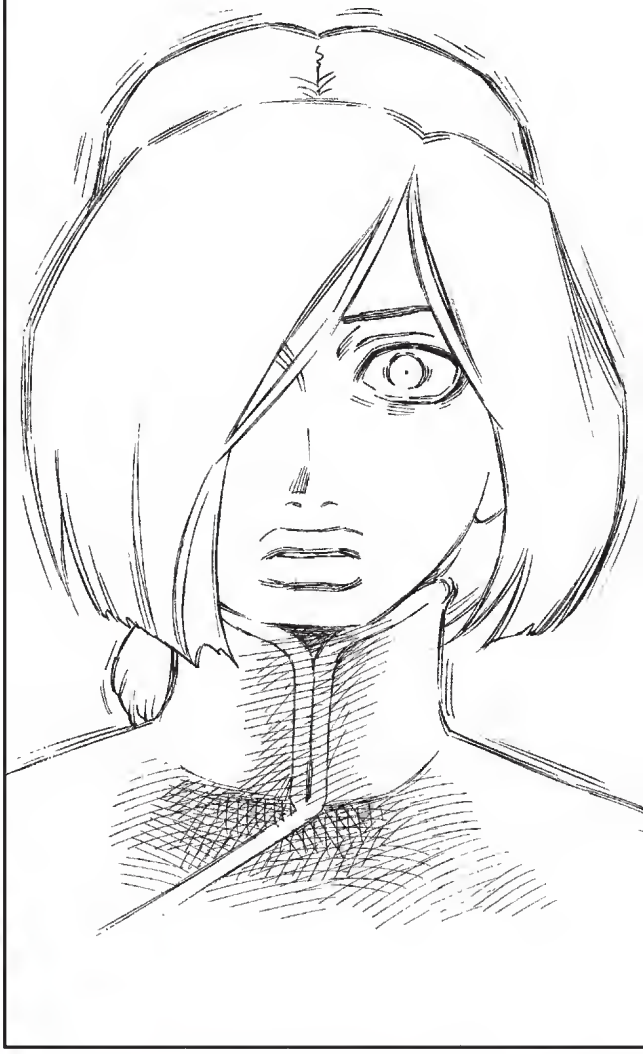
ONE MORE METEOR AND WE'D *PERISH!*
TOO *LATE!*
WHY PUSH A SPACE COLONY ON PEOPLE BEFORE YOU'VE EVEN REBUILT THE EARTH?
...IT'S TOO MUCH TOO SOON!
WE RISKED IT ALL TO ENSURE OUR MIGRATION!
BLOOD WAS SHED.
IT WAS *TOUGH.*
THIS WASN'T THE SILLY DREAM OF A BOY!
...OR THE LIVES OF A *FEW!*
OVER VOTES ...
OR LOVE!
OVER FREEDOM !
HUMAN SURVIVAL TAKES PRIORITY OVER *ALL!*

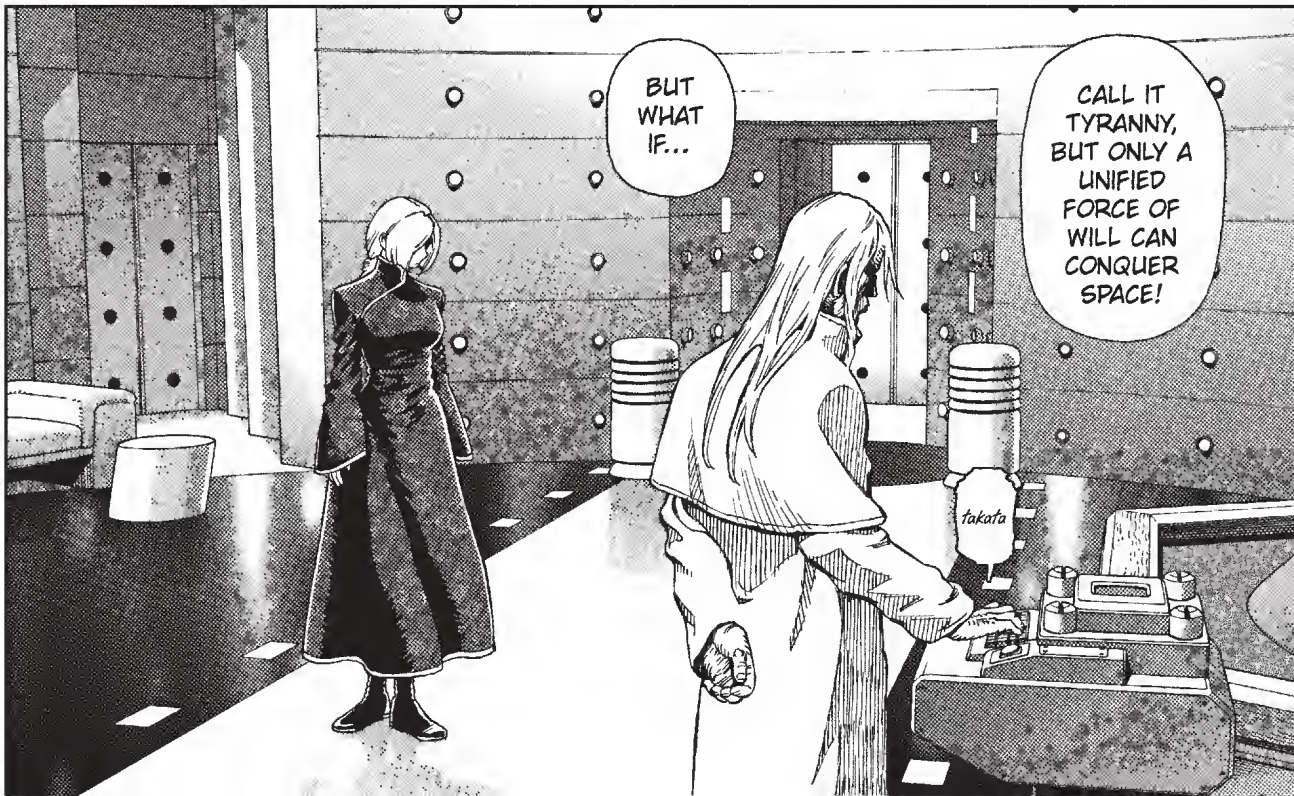
...YOU TAUGHT ME WELL! I *LEARNED* FROM YOU... AND FROM BYRON!
I HAVE THOUGHT THROUGH THIS ISSUE MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE!
YOU SEE...
I SAW THE TWO OF YOU—AND *THIS* IS THE RESULT! *I AM YOUR SON!*
EVEN THOSE YOU LOVE MOST MUST BE SACRIFICED FOR THE SURVIVAL OF HUMANITY!

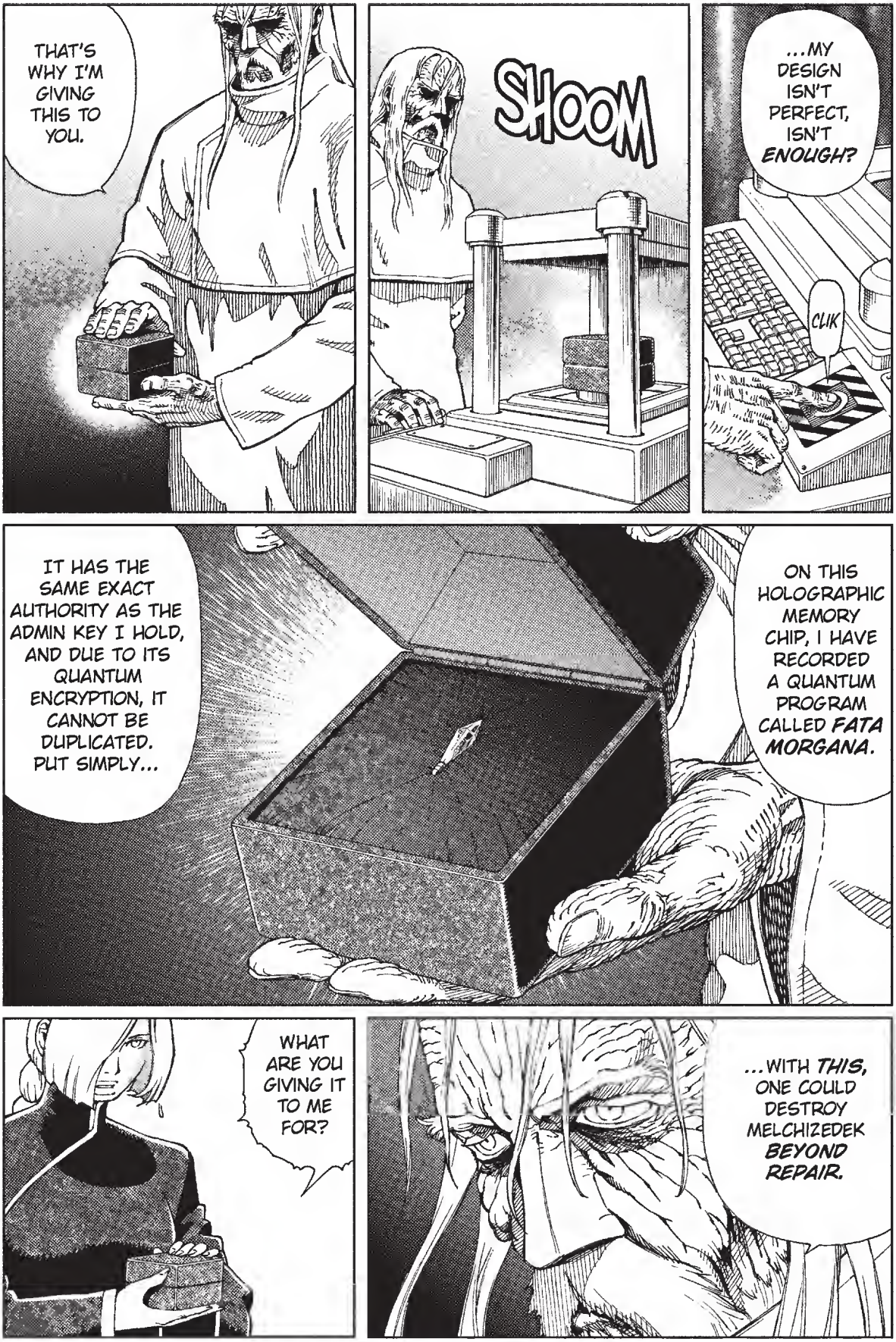

...HAVE ANY IDEA...
CAN HE...

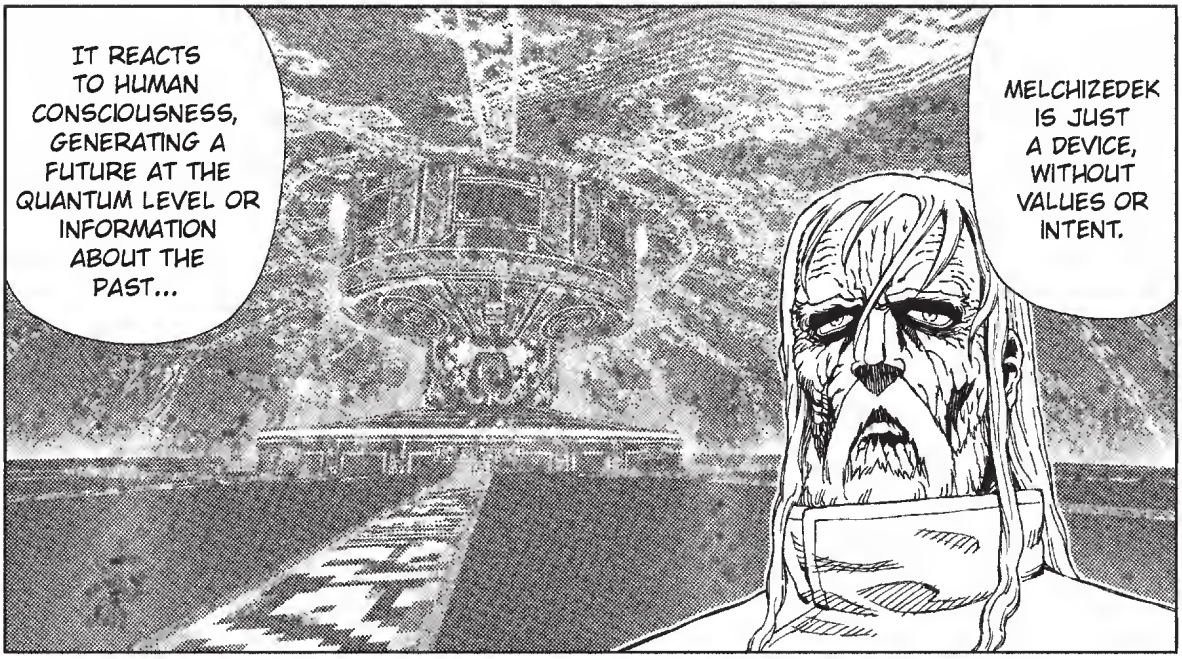

...OF THE CRUELTY OF HIS WORDS?

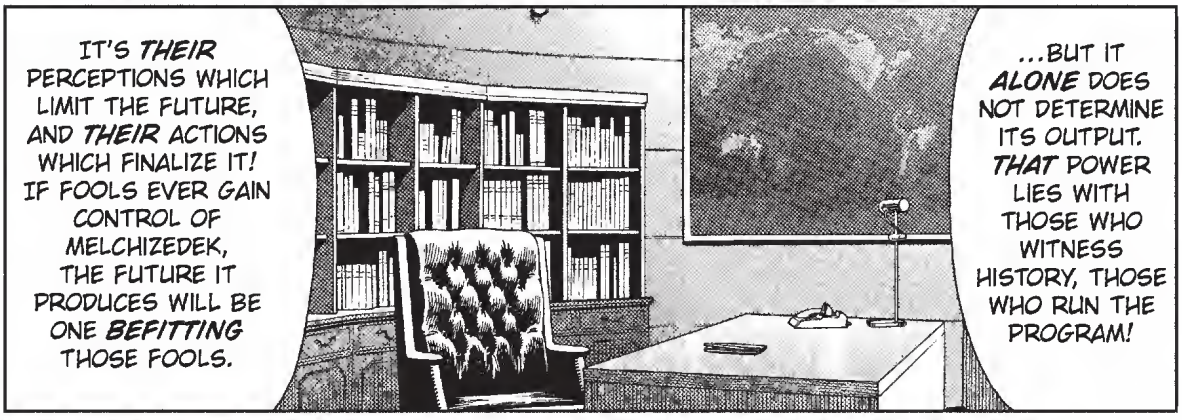

DO NOT HOPE TO SWAY ME NOW.
ONLY POWER LEAVES ANY LASTING LEGACY TO A SON.

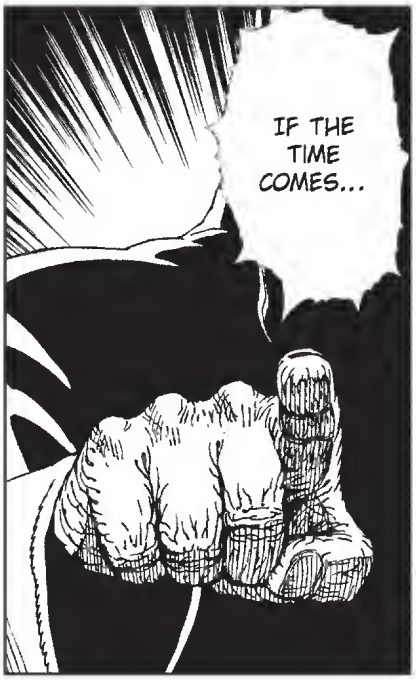


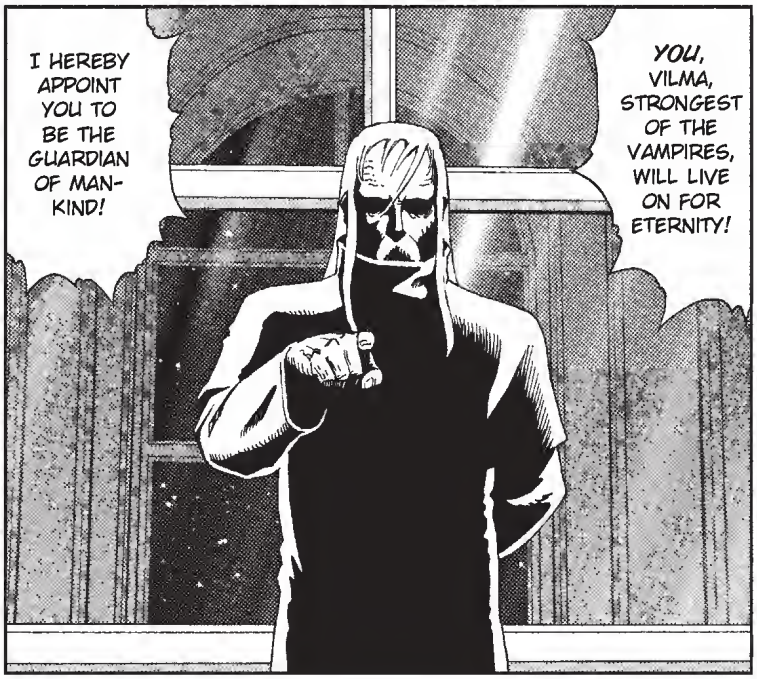

BUT WHAT IF...
CALL IT TYRANNY, BUT ONLY A UNIFIED FORCE OF WILL CAN CONQUER SPACE!
takata

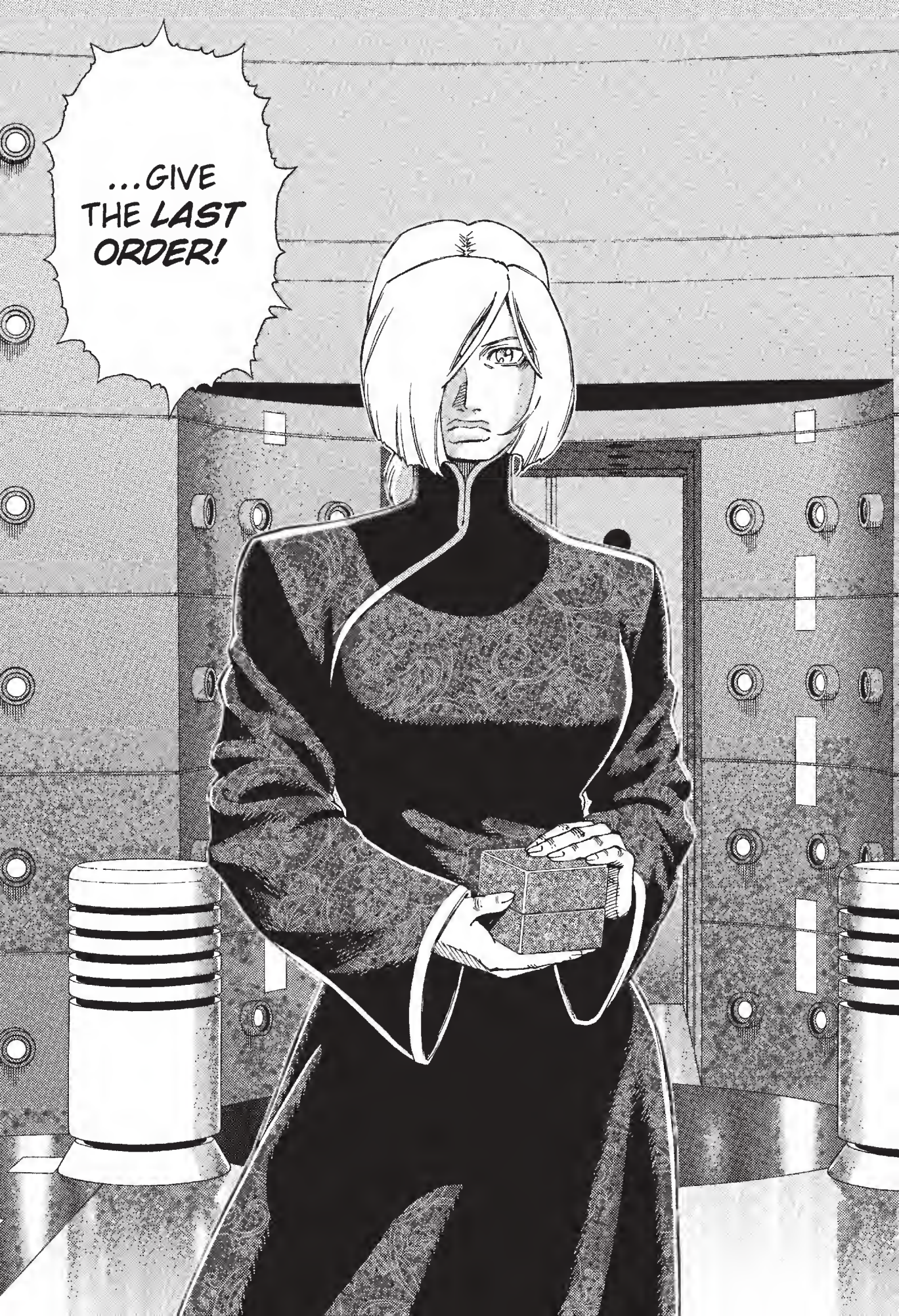

THAT'S WHY I'M GIVING THIS TO YOU.
SHOOM
...MY DESIGN ISN'T PERFECT, ISN'T ENOUGH?
CLIK
IT HAS THE SAME EXACT AUTHORITY AS THE ADMIN KEY I HOLD, AND DUE TO ITS QUANTUM ENCRYPTION, IT CANNOT BE DUPLICATED. PUT SIMPLY...
ON THIS HOLOGRAPHIC MEMORY CHIP, I HAVE RECORDED A QUANTUM PROGRAM CALLED FATA MORGANA.
WHAT ARE YOU GIVING IT TO ME FOR?
...WITH THIS, ONE COULD DESTROY MELCHIZEDEK BEYOND REPAIR.

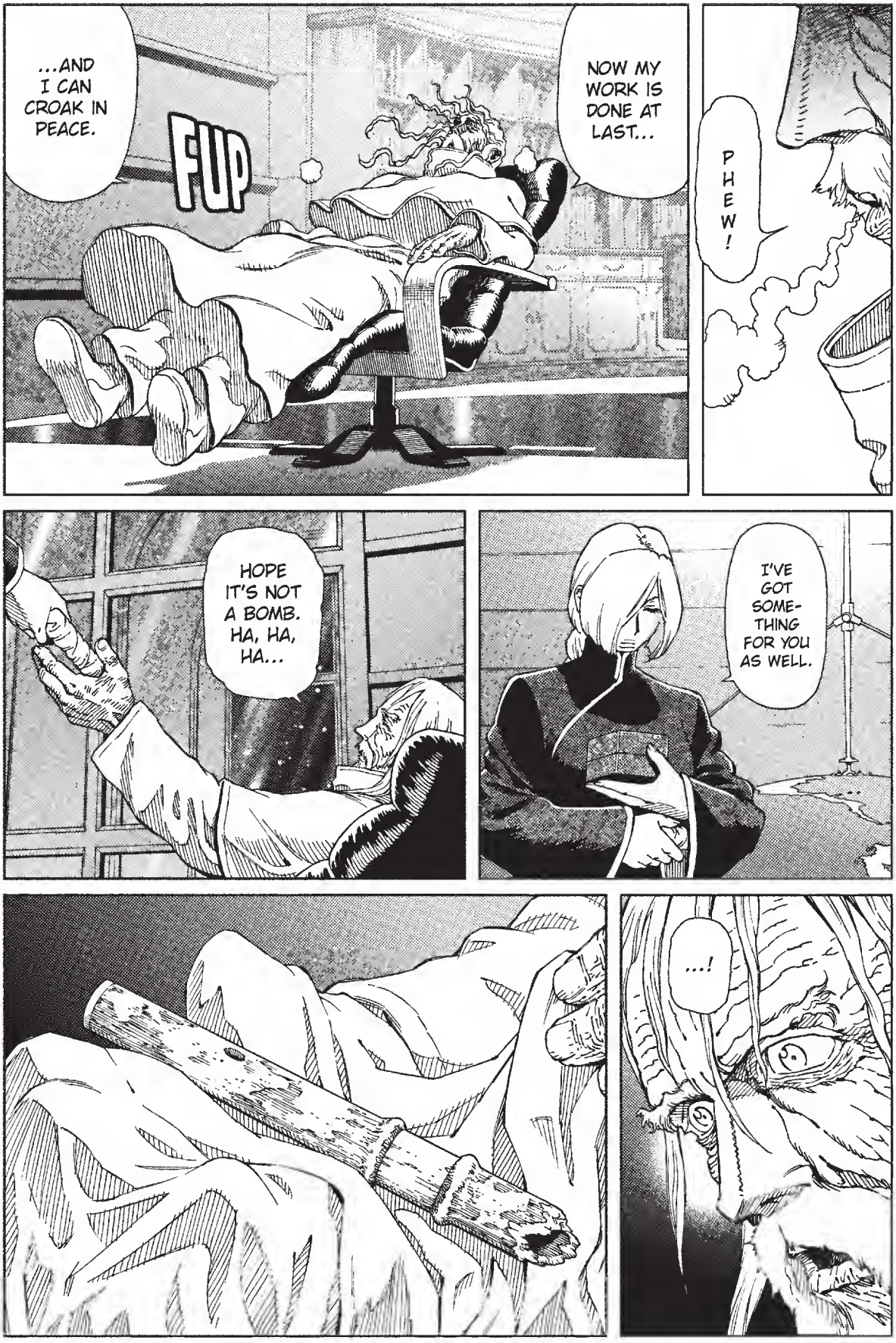

IT REACTS TO HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS, GENERATING A FUTURE AT THE QUANTUM LEVEL OR INFORMATION ABOUT THE PAST...
MELCHIZEDEK IS JUST A DEVICE, WITHOUT VALUES OR INTENT.

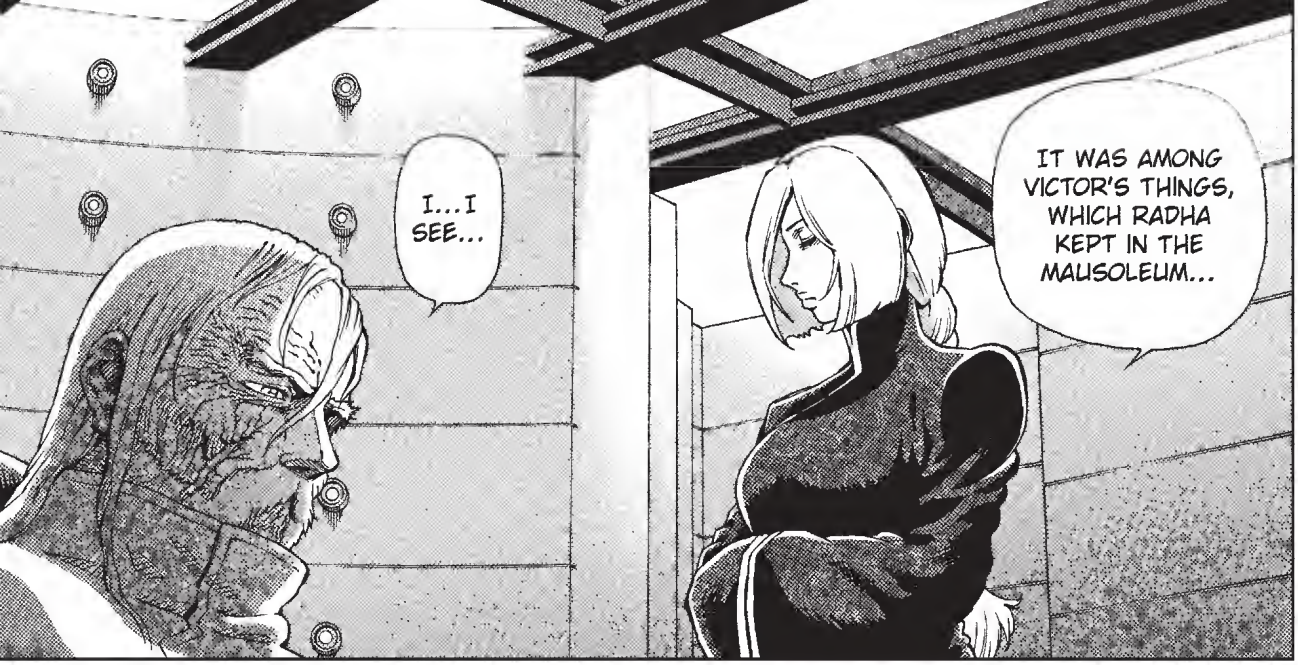

IT'S *THEIR* PERCEPTIONS WHICH LIMIT THE FUTURE, AND *THEIR* ACTIONS WHICH FINALIZE IT! IF FOOLS EVER GAIN CONTROL OF MELCHIZEDEK, THE FUTURE IT PRODUCES WILL BE ONE *BEFITTING* THOSE FOOLS.
...BUT IT *ALONE* DOES NOT DETERMINE ITS OUTPUT. *THAT* POWER LIES WITH THOSE WHO WITNESS HISTORY, THOSE WHO RUN THE PROGRAM!

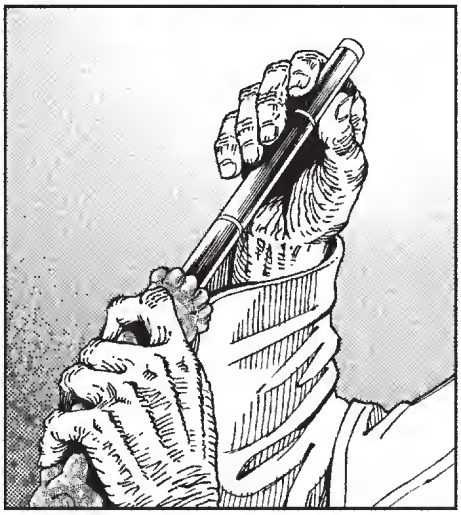

IF THE TIME COMES...

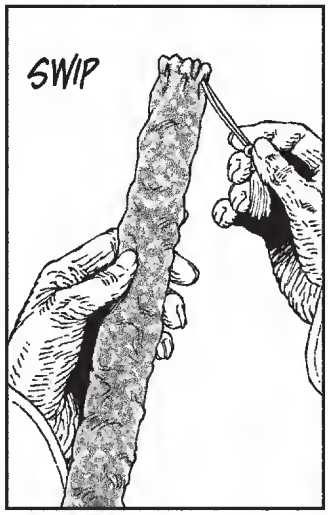

I HEREBY APPOINT YOU TO BE THE GUARDIAN OF MAN-KIND!
YOU, VILMA, STRONGEST OF THE VAMPIRES, WILL LIVE ON FOR ETERNITY!

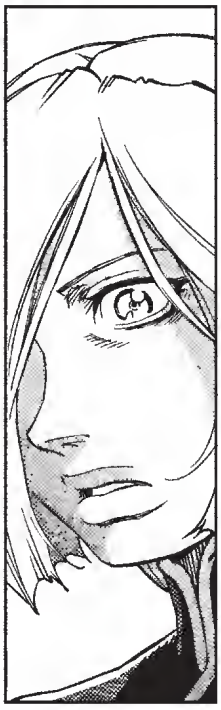

...GIVE THE LAST ORDER!

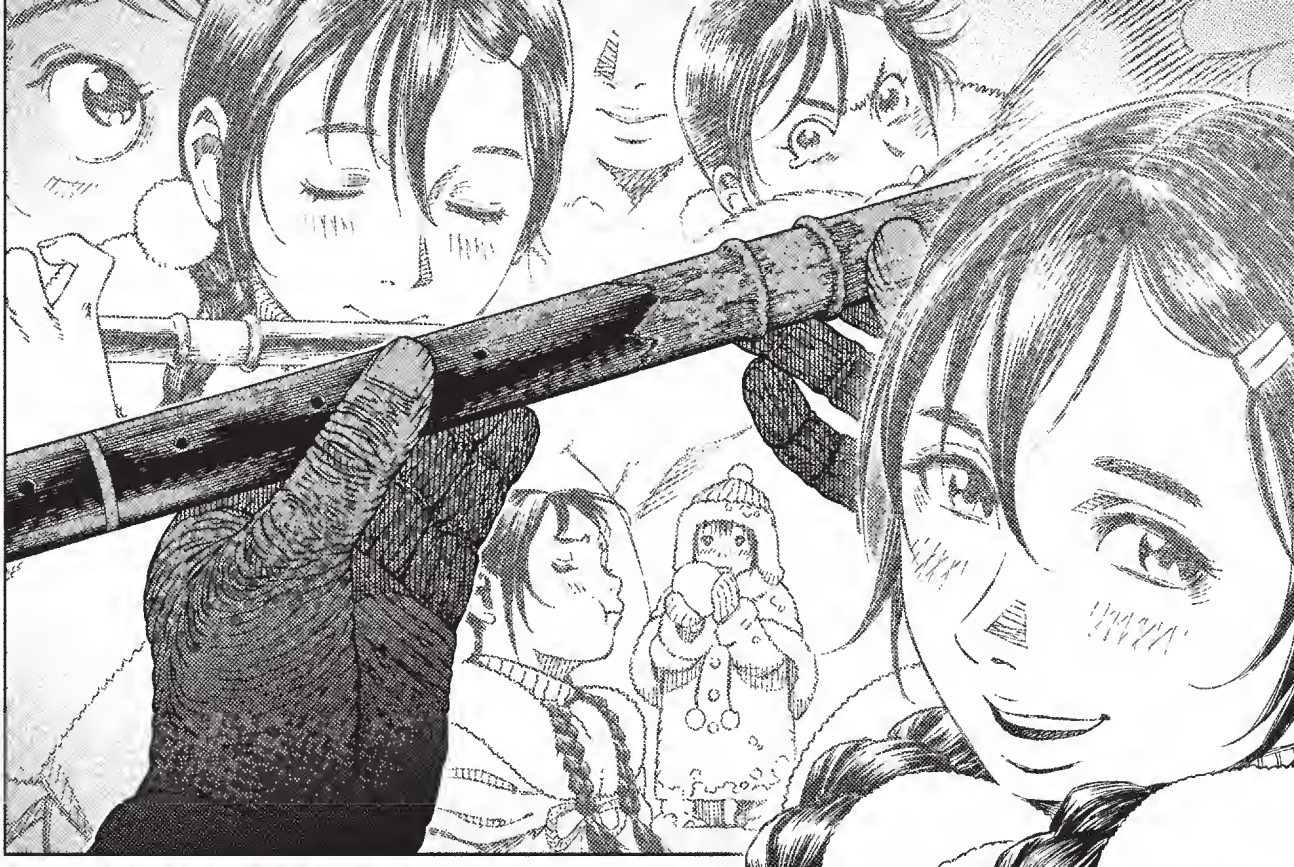

...AND I CAN CROAK IN PEACE.
FUP
NOW MY WORK IS DONE AT LAST...
PHEW!
HOPE IT'S NOT A BOMB. HA, HA, HA...
I'VE GOT SOME-THING FOR YOU AS WELL.
...!

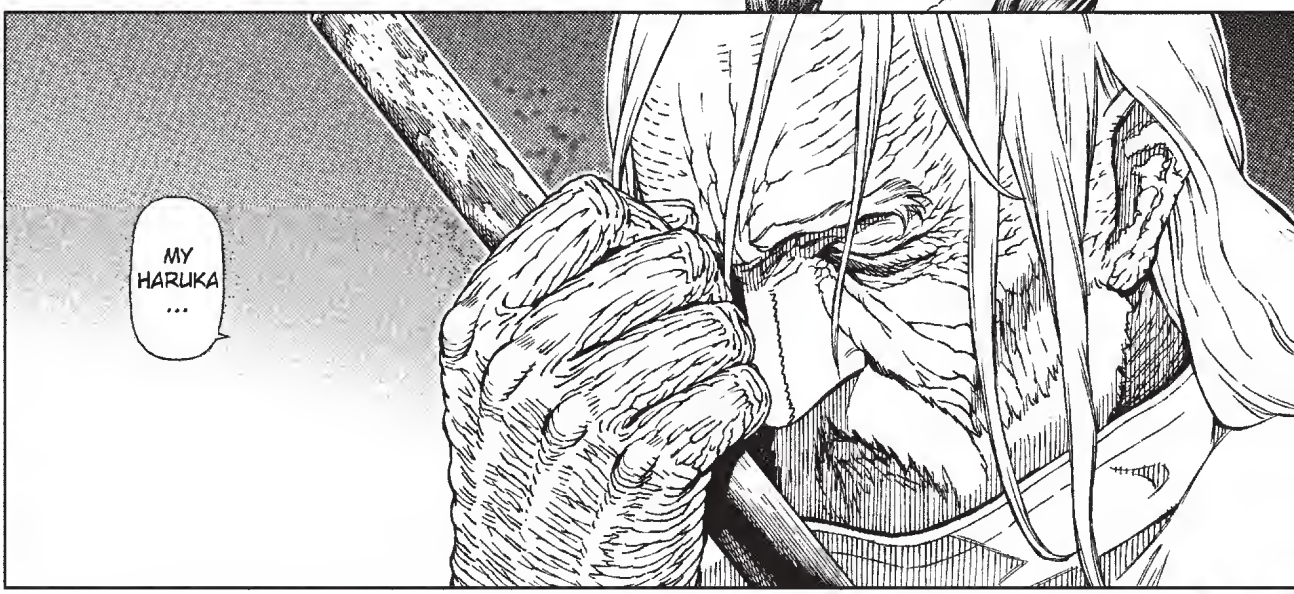

I...I SEE...
IT WAS AMONG VICTOR'S THINGS, WHICH RADHA KEPT IN THE MAUSOLEUM...

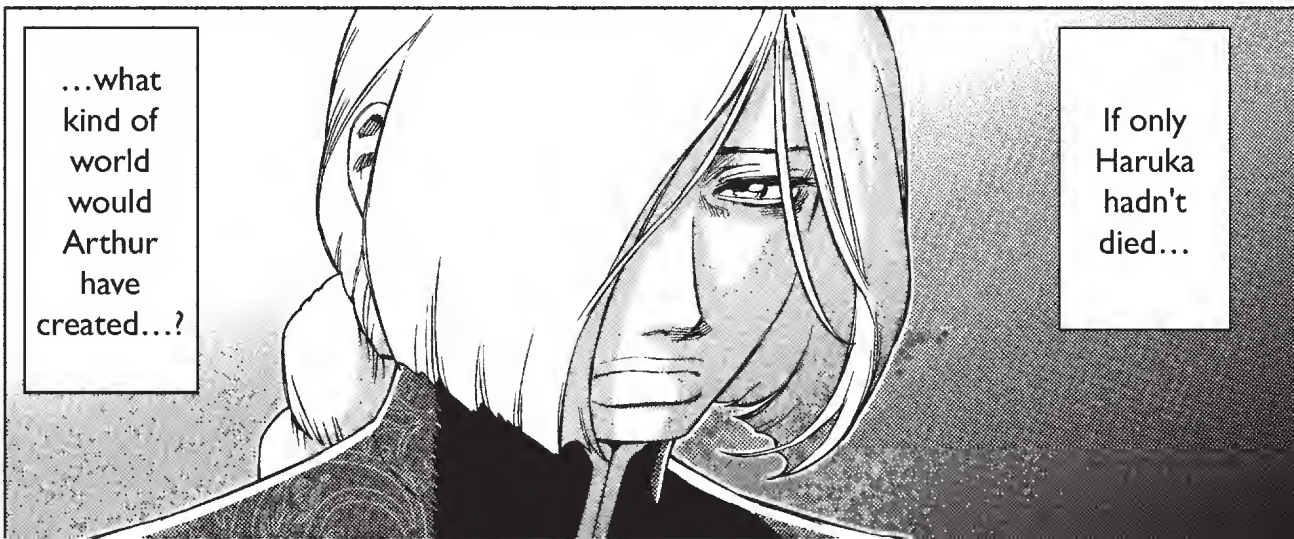



SWIP



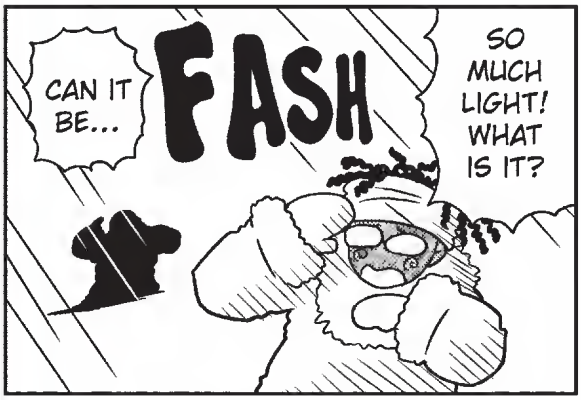


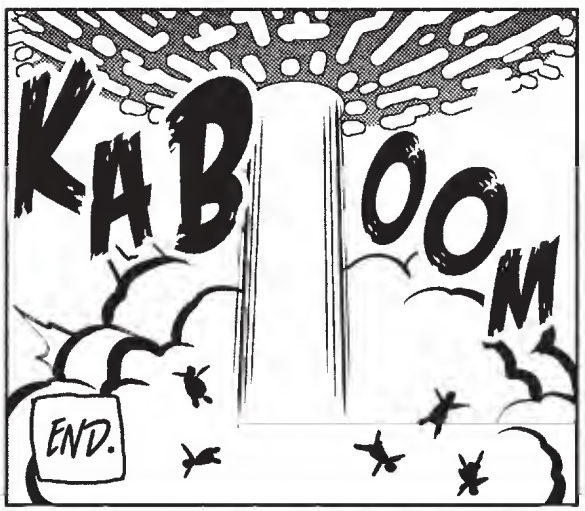

MY HARUKA ...


If only Haruka hadn't died...
...what kind of world would Arthur have created...?

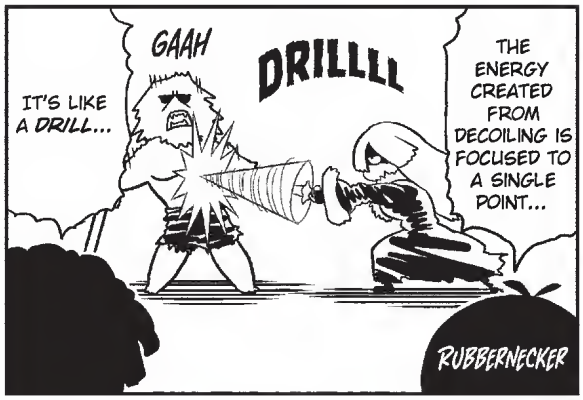
Late in 191, only a few months later, the tumultuous life of Arthur Farrell came to an end. He was eighty-four years old.
He had never married nor had children.
To be continued...

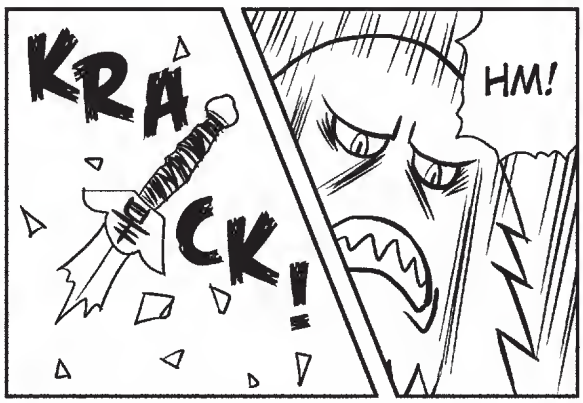
THE TRUE SCI-FI LAST BATTLE
WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE!

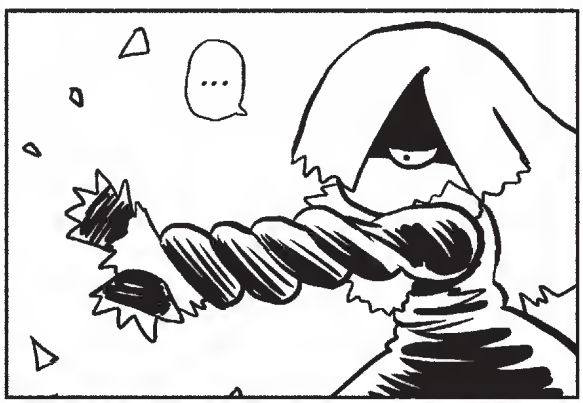


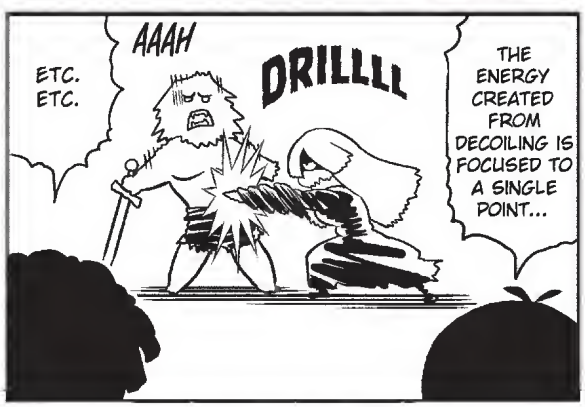


Vampire Kung-fu
Drill Fist



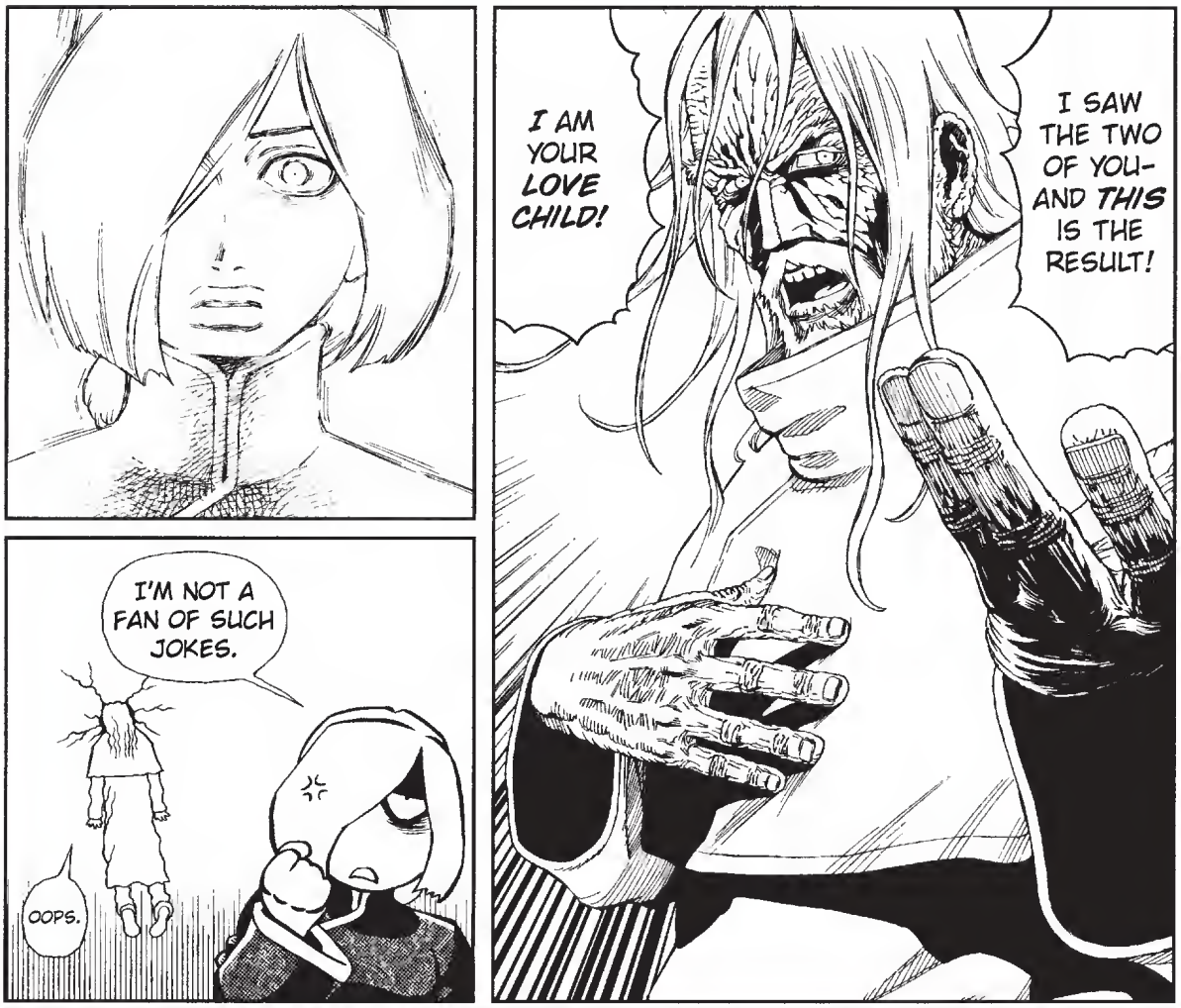






A drill in your hand, ghost stories in your heart, and a UFO above your head!

A SCANDALOUS LIFE!



*SORRY, I RAN OUT OF MATERIAL.

Wanted! Battle Angel Alita: Last Order New Characters/New Costumes

Send your entries to:
Yukito Kishiro, Kodansha Comics
451 Park Ave. South, 7th floor
New York, NY 10016
publicity@kodansha-usa.com

Send your entries on paper or postcard. Originals drawn with marker, ink, pen, or other medium (no pencil please), or copies accepted.

Include your name, address, nickname, the title of your work and any comments.

If you would like your name and address kept private, please let us know.

Received works will be kept for a limited time, then destroyed. They cannot be returned, so if you would like to retain a copy, please make one before sending.

Copyright for work used in the manga will belong to Yukito Kishiro.

Battle Angel Alita: Last Order Translation Notes

Battle Angel Alita: Last Order refers to many esoteric scientifric concepts that Mr. Kishiro is only too eager to explain in his thorough footnotes, but that doesn't mean there aren't still nuances in the original Japanese that might be tough to put into English. In this section, we'll discuss some of those translation decisions.

Wildflower, page 38:

Since various names were changed for this series, additional changes sometimes have to be made so that everything makes sense. On page 38, Hugo (or Yugo in Japanese) says Alita's name sounds "like a wildflower or something," but in the original Japanese he says that it sounds rugged or rough in reference to her Japanese name, Garii. Alita doesn't sound like a very rough name, so this had to be changed to something more appropriate.

A man has seven enemies as soon as he leaves home, page 102:

Qu Tsang says this to Molonev as he is sent out into the world. There are a few different versions of this proverb, but the basic idea is that as children, men live an easy life in their own home, but when they go out into the world they will meet with many enemies and have to be strong to survive in life. A similar proverb is listed as one of the "twenty instructions of Shotokan Karate" written by master Gichin Funakoshi (1868–1957).

Every data cloud has a titanium lining, page 121:

The original Japanese is "Ningen Banji Cyborg Ga Uma" which is proverb that was turned into a pun. The original proverb replaces "cyborg" with "Saiou" and this proverb comes from the tale of an old man in what is now known as China who goes through a series of misfortunes followed by blessings, starting with his horse who ran away but later came back with a herd of excellent horses. The basic idea of this story is "the ways are heaven are inscrutable"; what may seem like bad luck will be followed by good luck and vice-versa. Seeing that "cyborg" was used to make a pun in the original Japanese, an English proverb was used and converted to similar techno-sounding pun.

Mind over matter, page 159:
The original Japanese is "Shinto Mekkyaku Sureba Hi mo Mata Suzushii", a Buddhist saying that roughly translates to, "clear your mind of thoughts and even fire will seem cool."

Slit-Mouthed Woman, Taxi Ghost, etc., page 295:
The first NG Theater segment in this volume makes reference to quite a few Japanese urban legends. Below, are brief summaries of each urban legend.

Slit-mouthed woman: As demonstrated by Caerula, children walking by themselves at night may come across a woman wearing a surgical mask who asks, "Am I pretty?" If the child answers no, they are killed with a pair of scissors, if yes, then she takes off her mask and reveals her mouth, which has been slit from end-to-end. From here, she asks once again if she is pretty, and answering either yes or no results in a grim end. The only way to escape is by answering, "You're average", which will leave her confused and give the child enough time to run away.

Taxi Ghost: A taxi driver picks up a young woman at a graveyard and brings her home. When they arrive, she says that she doesn't have any money on her and needs to go inside to get some. Some time passes and she doesn't come out. When the taxi driver knocks on the door, he is greeted by an old woman and finds out that the young woman was the old lady's deceased daughter.

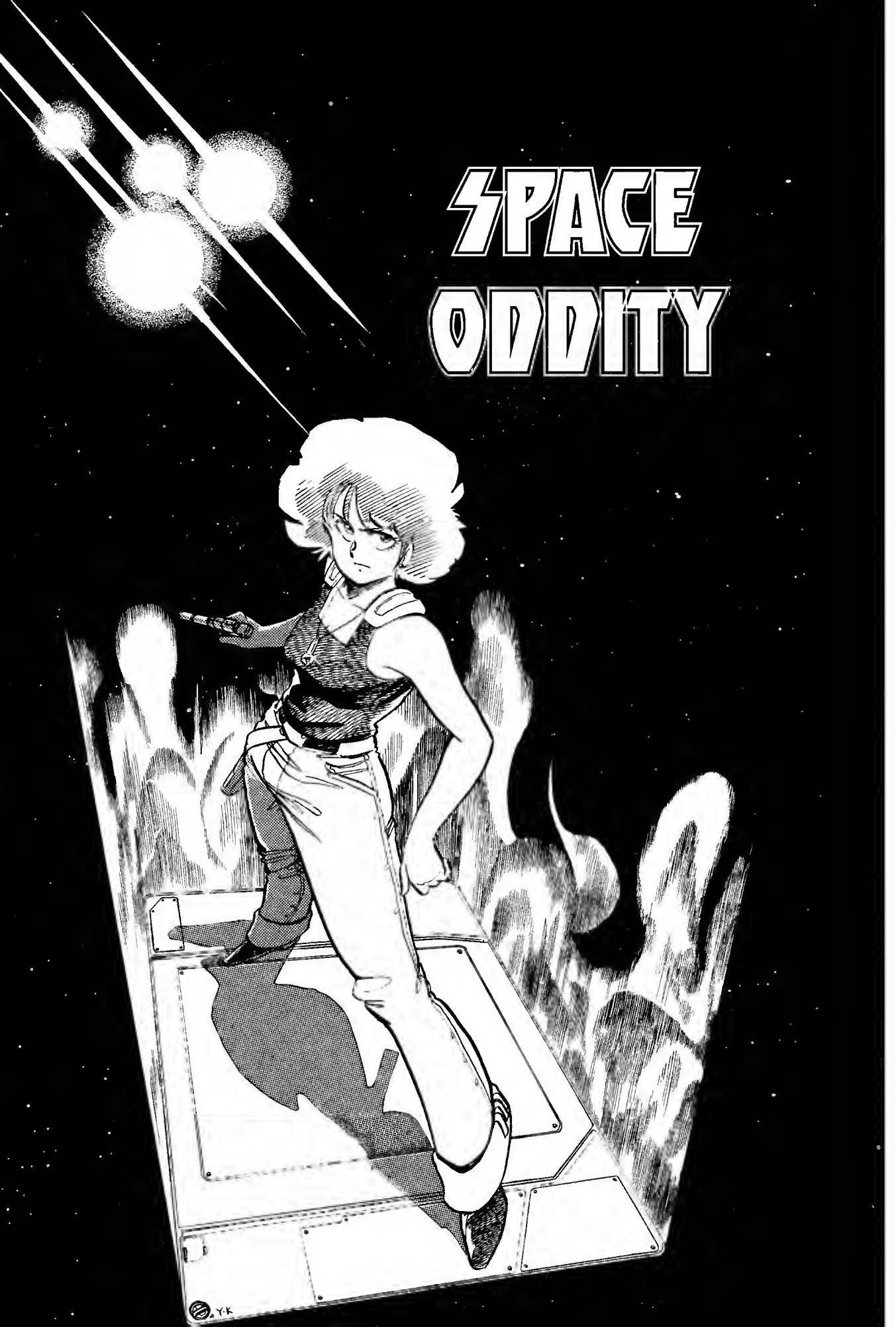
Turbo Granny: A young man is speeding recklessly through a tunnel and is shocked to see an old woman, on foot, gaining up on him in his rear view mirror. He freaks out and steps on the pedal to escape, but she catches up and eventually passes him while running at speeds of over 60 mph.

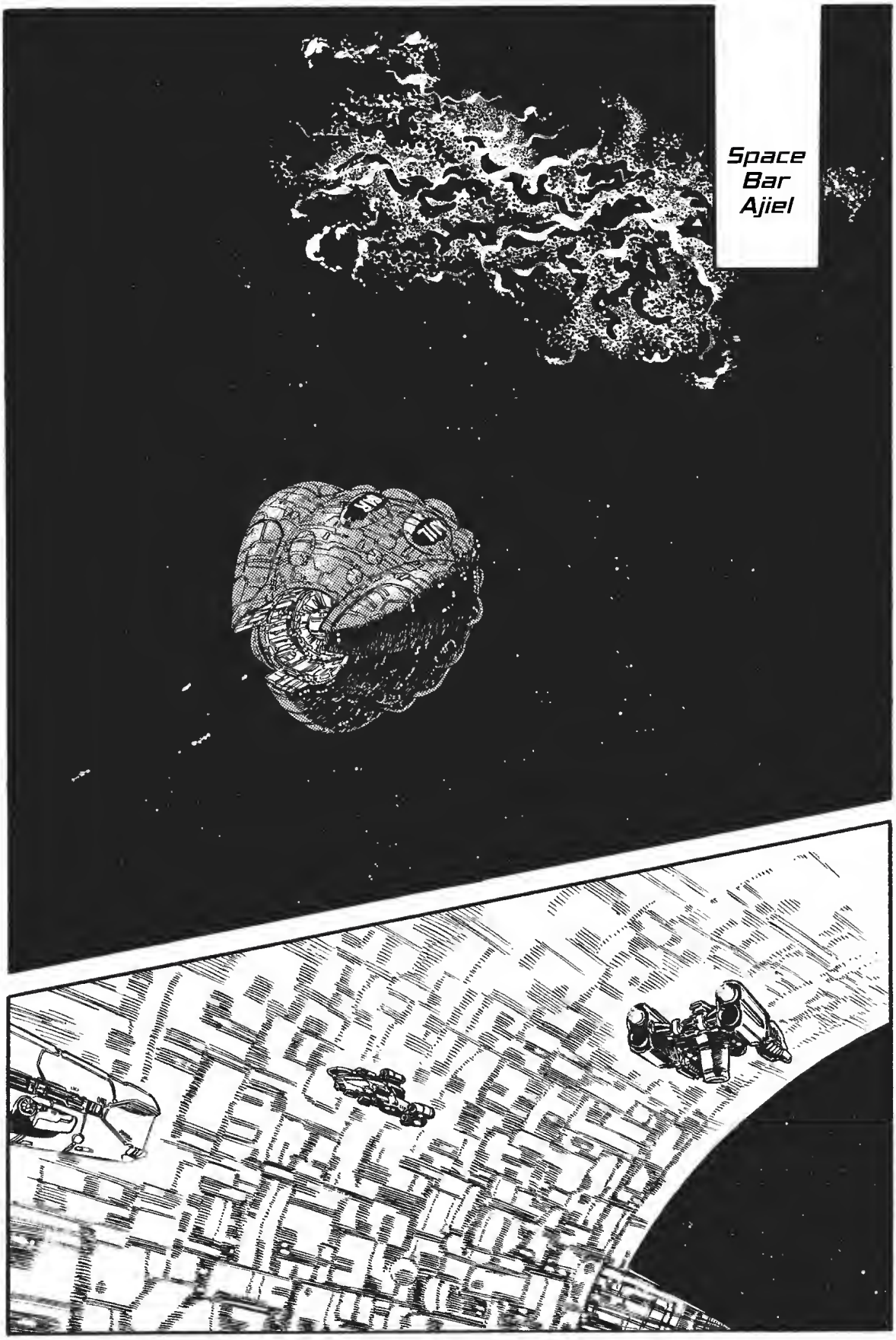
Hanako of the Toilet: The ghost of a World War II-era girl who haunts school bathrooms and is summoned by shouting her name à la Bloody Mary.

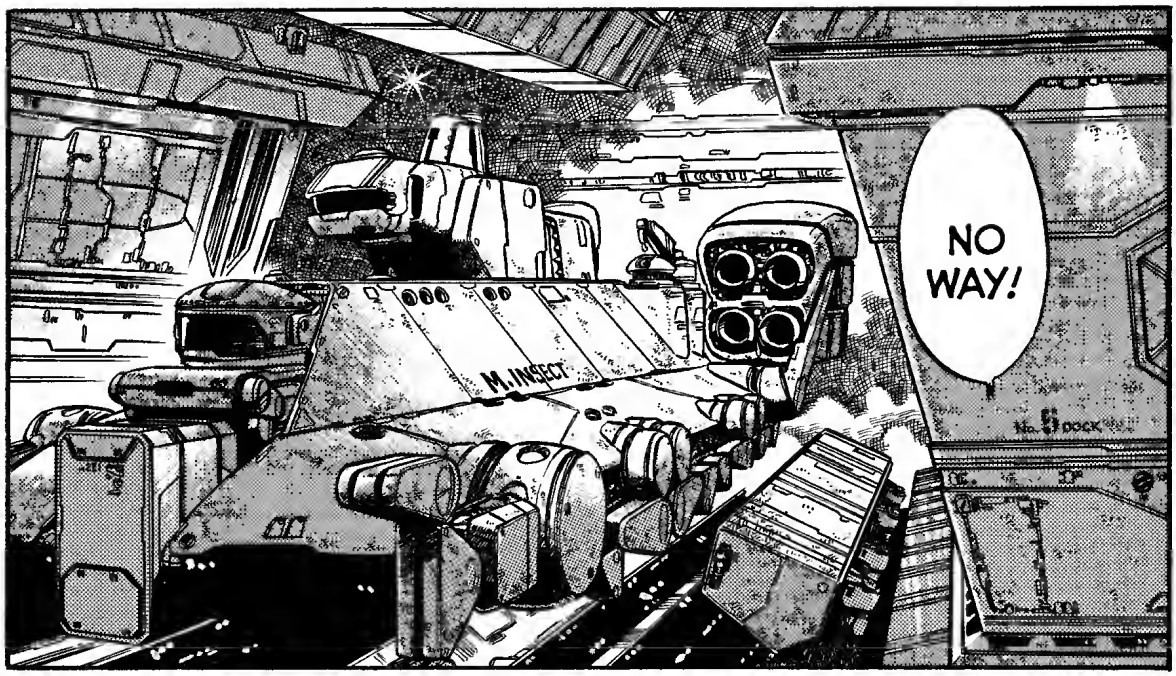
Girl with the Thread Coming Out of her Pierced Ear: A young woman gets her ears pierced and after doing so, discovers a white thread coming out of her ear. When she pulls on it, she goes blind, as it turns out to be her optical nerve.

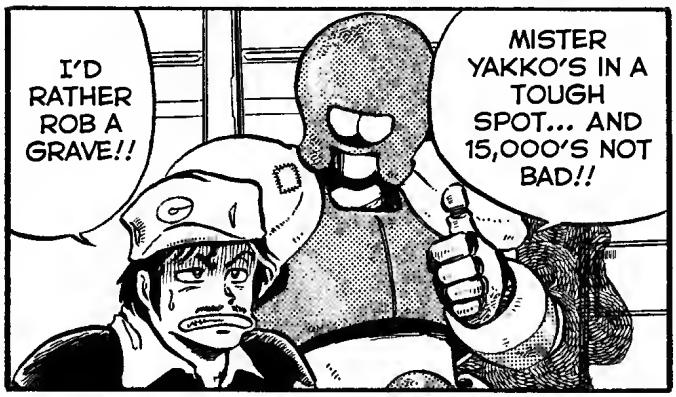
Bonus Manga

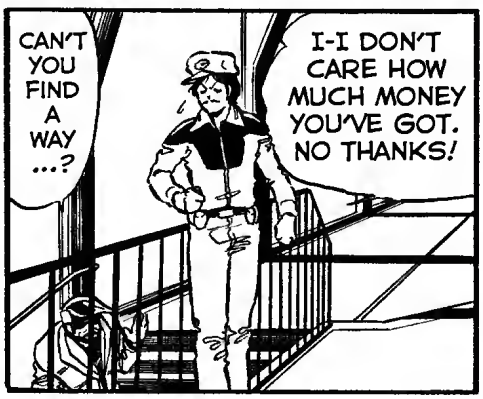
Kodansha Comics is pleased to bring you two early short stories by Yukito Kishiro never before published in English. "Space Oddity" (***"Kikai"***) ran in the Jan. 1, 1985 issue of Weekly Shonen Sunday, published by Shogakukan. "Junks: The Space Rovers - Part 1" (***"Uchuu Kaizoku Shonendan (Zenpen)"***) originally appeared in the May 1990 issue of Comic Comp, published by Kadokawa Shoten

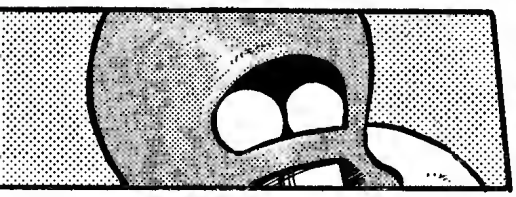

SPACE
ODDITY


Space
Bar
Ajiel

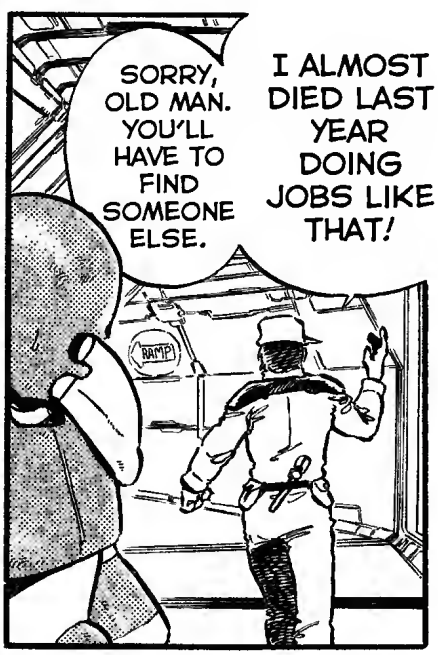

NO WAY!
M.INSECT
No.5 DOCK

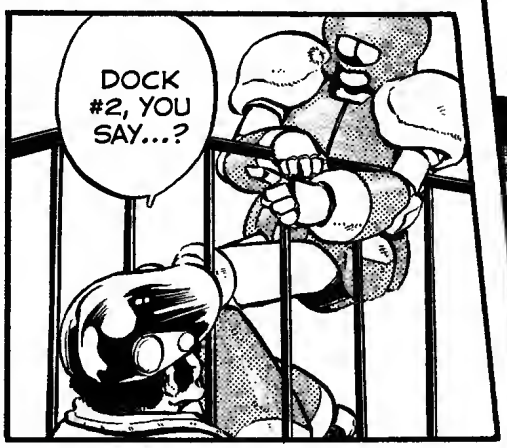

I'D RATHER ROB A GRAVE!!
MISTER YAKKO'S IN A TOUGH SPOT... AND 15,000'S NOT BAD!!


CAN'T YOU FIND A WAY ...?
I-I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH MONEY YOU'VE GOT. NO THANKS!

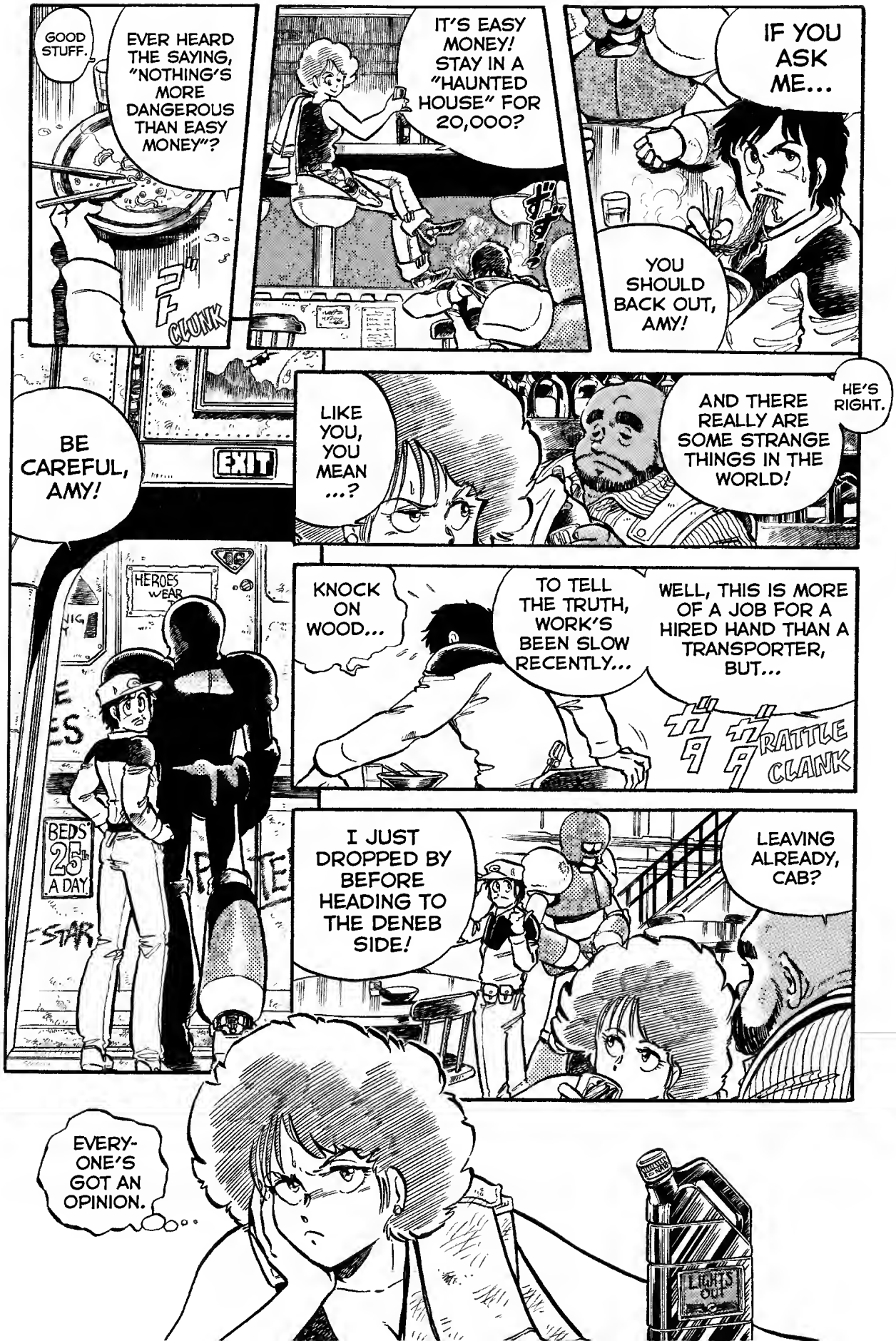


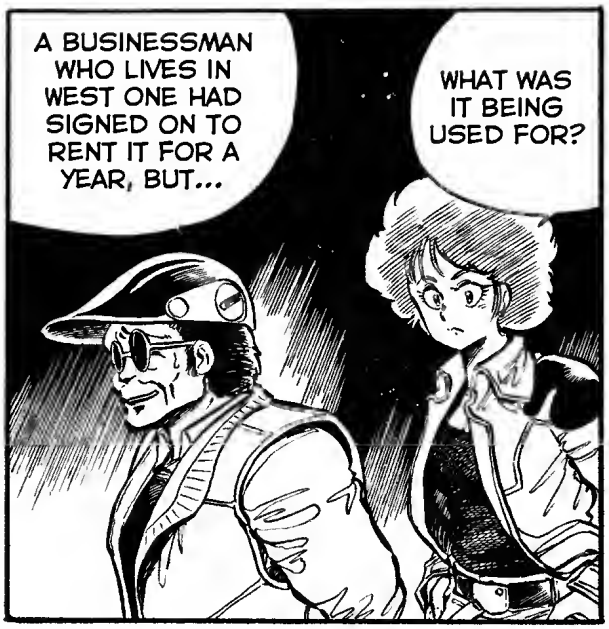
THIS IS HOPE-LESS!

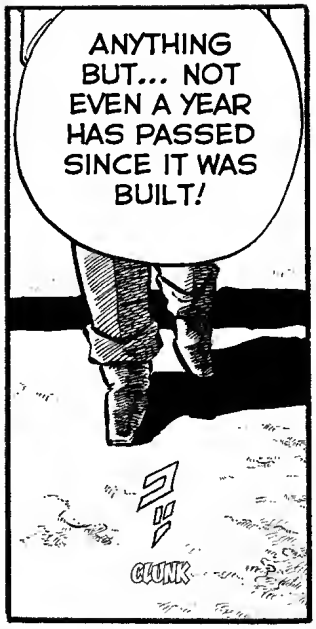

SORRY, OLD MAN. YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE.
I ALMOST DIED LAST YEAR DOING JOBS LIKE THAT!
RAMP!

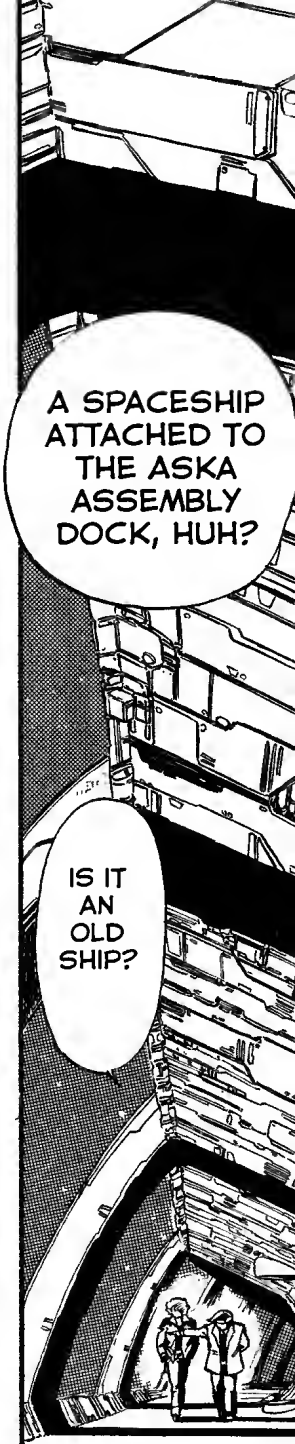

DOCK #2, YOU SAY...?

GHOST EXTERMI-NATION?
No. 12 DOCK
LITTLE HAWK
WHO BELIEVES IN GHOSTS IN THIS DAY AND AGE?
HAH. ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
ALIEL BAR AND RESTAURANT
PM 3:04
20,000 ...?
THAT'S JUST THE ATTITUDE I'M LOOKING FOR.
IF YOU CAN CERTIFY THAT THE PLACE IS GHOST-FREE...
YOU'LL GET 20,000 DAL IN CASH!!
HOW ABOUT IT?


GOOD STUFF.
EVER HEARD THE SAYING, "NOTHING'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN EASY MONEY"?
CLUNK
IT'S EASY MONEY! STAY IN A "HAUNTED HOUSE" FOR 20,000?
IF YOU ASK ME...
YOU SHOULD BACK OUT, AMY!
BE CAREFUL, AMY!
EXIT
LIKE YOU, YOU MEAN ...?
AND THERE REALLY ARE SOME STRANGE THINGS IN THE WORLD!
HE'S RIGHT.
HEROES WEAR
BEDS 25th A DAY
KNOCK ON WOOD...
TO TELL THE TRUTH, WORK'S BEEN SLOW RECENTLY...
WELL, THIS IS MORE OF A JOB FOR A HIRED HAND THAN A TRANSPORTER, BUT...
RATTLE CLANK
I JUST DROPPED BY BEFORE HEADING TO THE DENEB SIDE!
LEAVING ALREADY, CAB?
EVERY-ONE'S GOT AN OPINION.
LIGHTS OUT

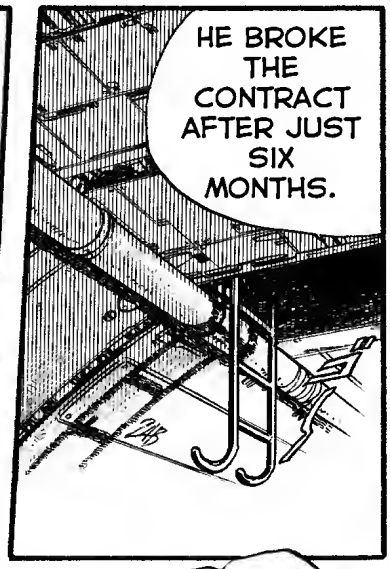

A BUSINESSMAN WHO LIVES IN WEST ONE HAD SIGNED ON TO RENT IT FOR A YEAR, BUT...
WHAT WAS IT BEING USED FOR?


ANYTHING BUT... NOT EVEN A YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE IT WAS BUILT!
CLUNK

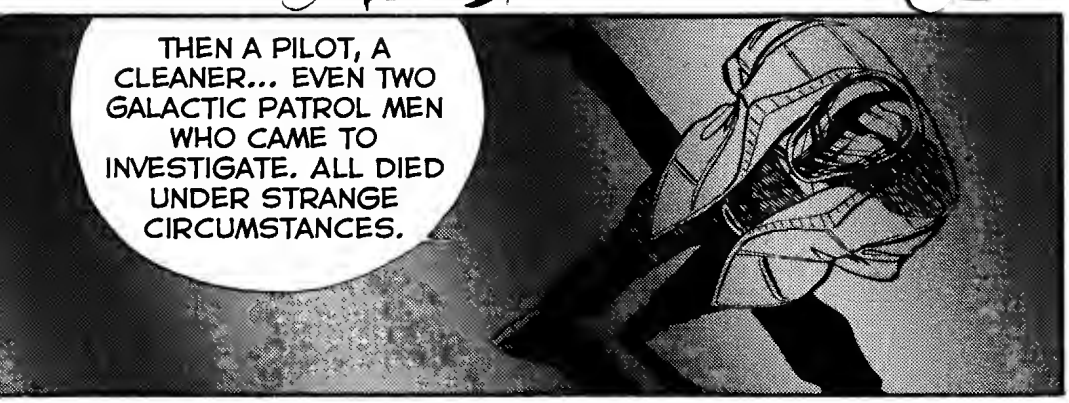

A SPACESHIP ATTACHED TO THE ASKA ASSEMBLY DOCK, HUH?
IS IT AN OLD SHIP?

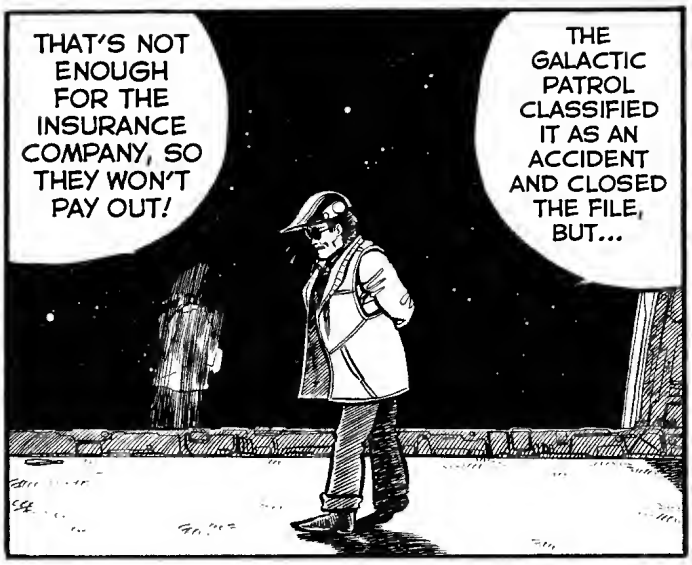
NO ONE HAS SEEN THEM CLEARLY, BUT THE MAN WHO WAS FIRST HIRED TO BE THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN...

YES.
BECAUSE GHOSTS STARTED TO APPEAR?

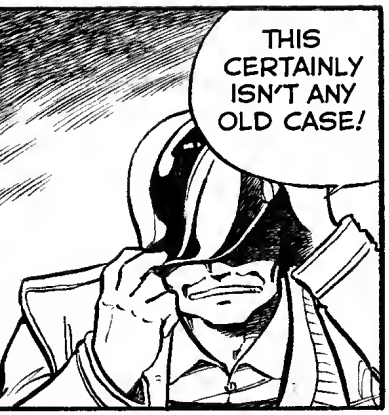

HE BROKE THE CONTRACT AFTER JUST SIX MONTHS.

DIED?!


THEN A PILOT, A CLEANER... EVEN TWO GALACTIC PATROL MEN WHO CAME TO INVESTIGATE. ALL DIED UNDER STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES.

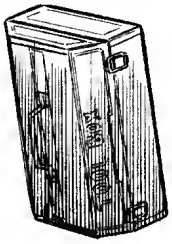

THAT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR THE INSURANCE COMPANY, SO THEY WON'T PAY OUT!
THE GALACTIC PATROL CLASSIFIED IT AS AN ACCIDENT AND CLOSED THE FILE, BUT...

HM... THIS IS STARTING TO SOUND DANGEROUS.


THIS CERTAINLY ISN'T ANY OLD CASE!

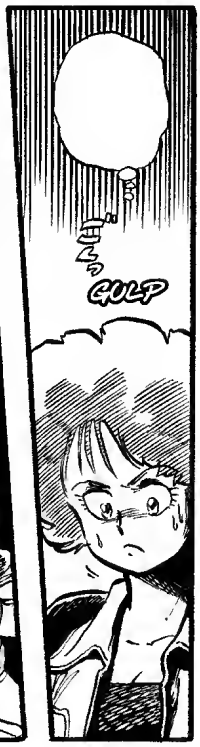
ふぅ
PHEW

THOUGH THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD OF A GHOST WHO KILLS SO INDISCRIMINATELY ...



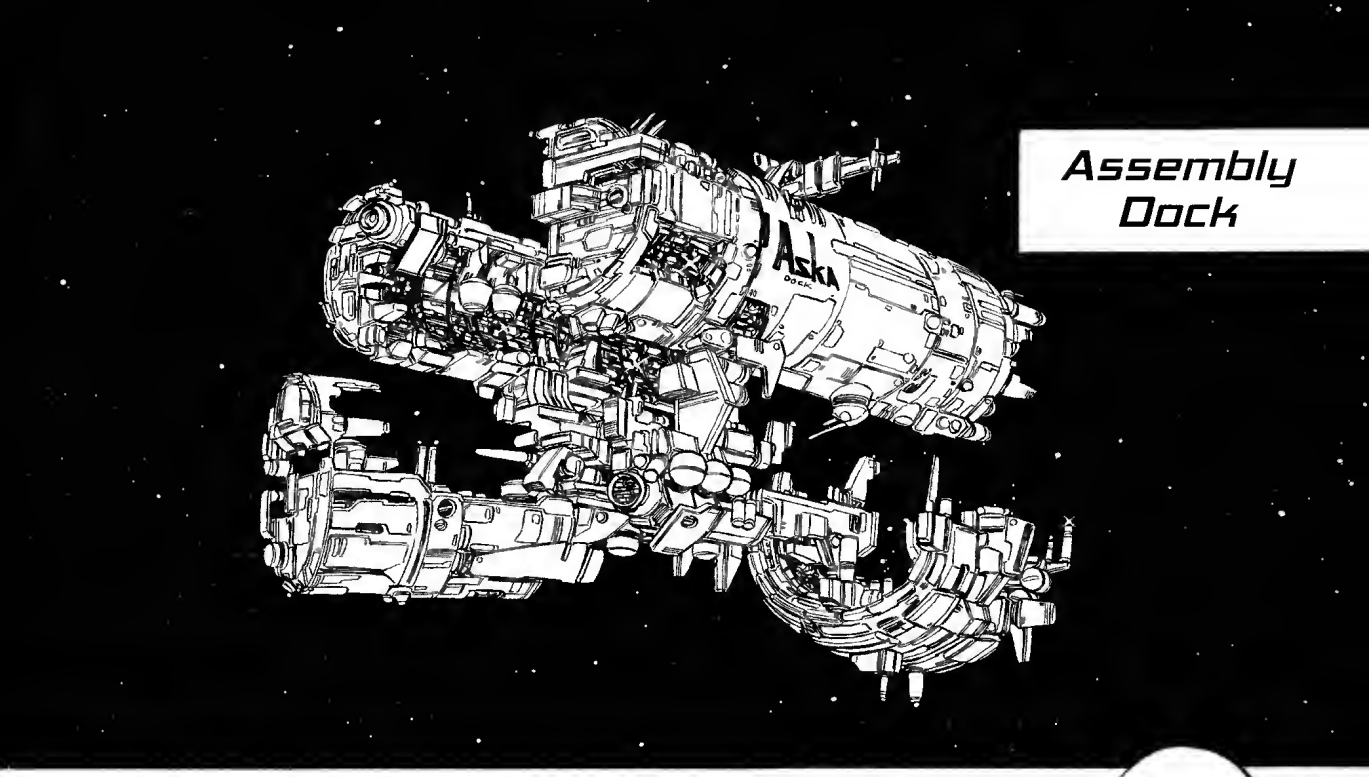
SLIDE...
KATT KATT
SO, MISTER TRENCH ...
コッ コッ CLUNK CLUNK

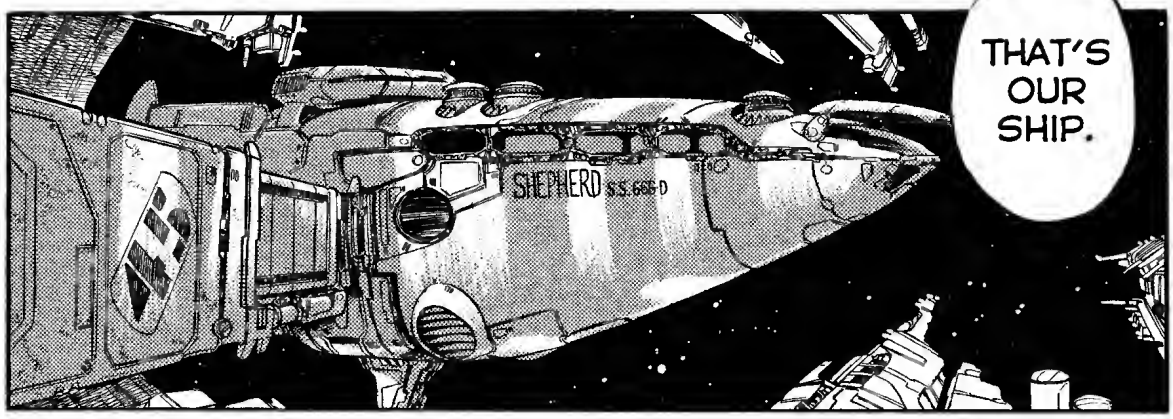
I'M... I'M NOT GOING TO LET THIS GET TO ME!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS! NO WAY!!
TWITCH

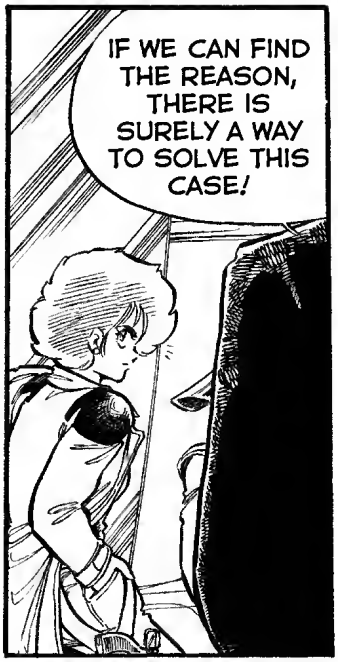

GULP

I... I'M AT MY LIMIT.
ARE YOU OKAY, MISTER TRENCH?
CLANK...
KUSHO TUNG
ROLL
HURRY
PLEASE... JUST TAKE CARE OF THOSE GHOSTS FOR ME.
SORRY ABOUT THAT! IS ANYONE HURT?!
THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, YOU BIG OAF?!
OH...
PHYXAN ...
OH, AMY! IT'S YOU!
SQUEEK
SO, YOU'RE GOING TO EXTERMINATE SOME SPIRITS?
NOT SPIRITS, GHOSTS!
HUP
YOU AND YOUR BIG MOUTH...

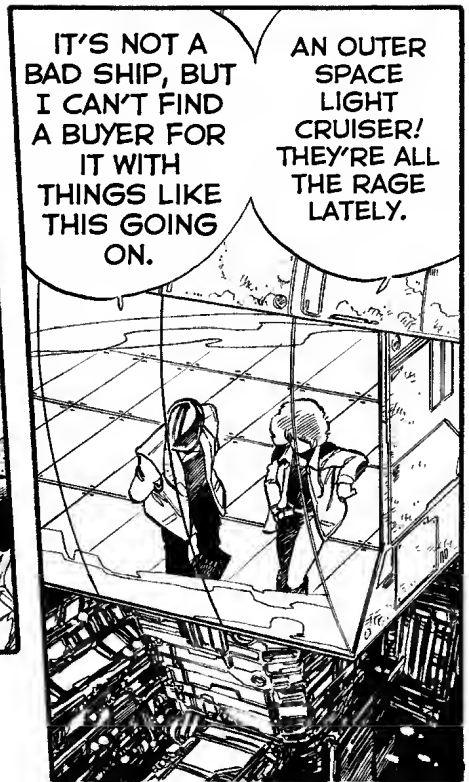
OH, YOU CAN HAVE THIS!
YEP! PIPE WORK ON TREKKIE BLOCK.
ARE YOU WORKING HERE?
IT'S A LUCKY CHARM!
HEH, IT'S A SPECIAL NECKLACE! (A PAIR OF THEM!)
PHYXAN
CLANG
PHYXAN! I DON'T-
-NEED SOME-THING LIKE THIS ...
IT'S A WRENCH I'VE USED SINCE I WAS A KID! IT'LL GIVE YOU PLENTY OF GOOD LUCK!
CLUNK
WELL, SEE YA!
GOD, HE'S SO CLUMSY...
BUT HE REALLY JUST WANTED TO GIVE ME THIS...
HE WANTED TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE HE FOUND YOU BY ACCIDENT...
AND HE EVEN FORGOT HIS TOOLBOX!


Assembly Dock
ASKA


THAT'S OUR SHIP.
SHEPHERD S.S.666D

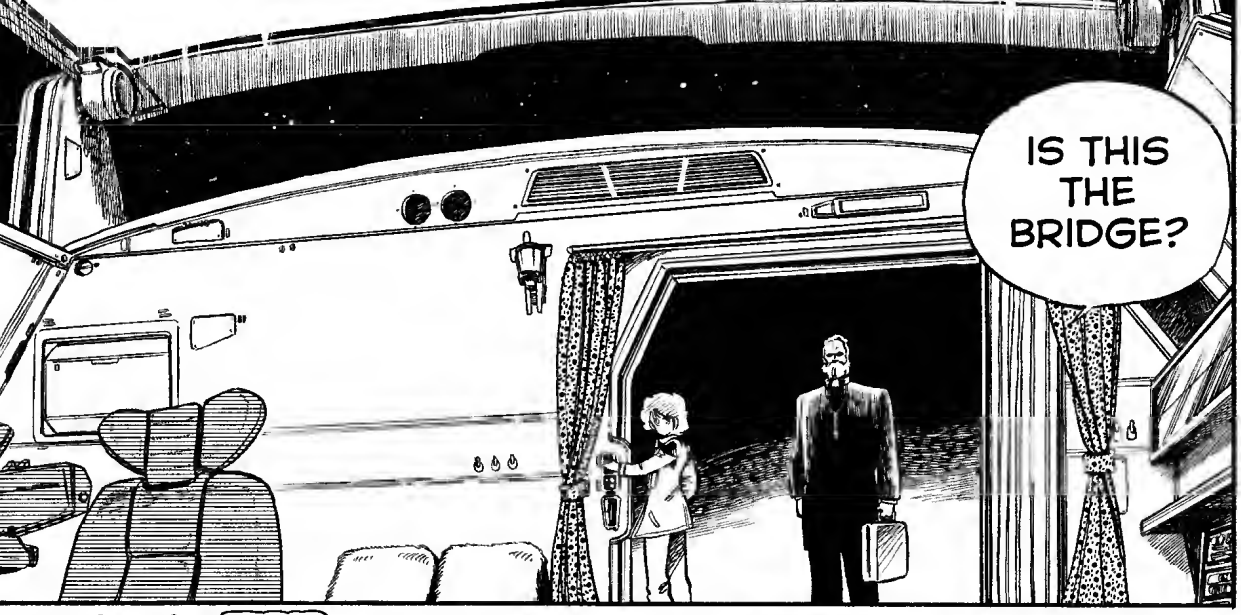

IF WE CAN FIND THE REASON, THERE IS SURELY A WAY TO SOLVE THIS CASE!

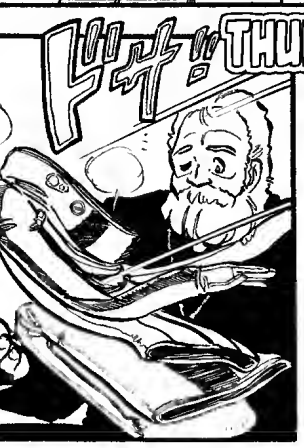
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO GET THE SHIP CURSED?

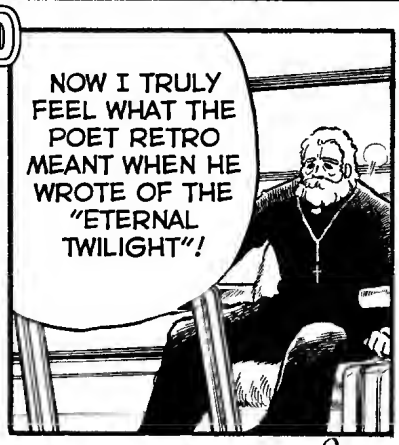

IT'S NOT A BAD SHIP, BUT I CAN'T FIND A BUYER FOR IT WITH THINGS LIKE THIS GOING ON.
AN OUTER SPACE LIGHT CRUISER! THEY'RE ALL THE RAGE LATELY.

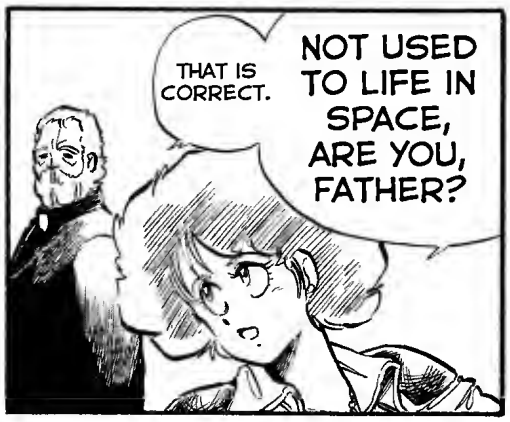
LOOK WHO'S HERE... THANKS FOR COMING ALL THIS WAY!
ALLOW ME TO INTRO-DUCE YOU...
THIS IS FATHER HOLY.
THIS PRIEST IS GETTING ON THE SHIP, TOO?
THAT'S RIGHT. HE CAME ALL THE WAY FROM GREEN IN WEST ONE.
"I CAST YOU OUT ...!"
AS YOU SAY...
SO THAT IS THE SHIP WHERE THE EVIL SPIRIT DWELLS!

NOT REALLY... THAT'S JUST THE RECYCLED AIR!
...DO YOU SMELL SOMETHING ODD?
PSSHT
AIR LOCK
WOULD A GHOST REALLY APPEAR IN A FULLY ARTIFICIAL, MECHANICAL WORLD?
BACK TO WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT EARLIER...
A GHOST WOULD NEVER APPEAR IN UNEXPLORED SPACE!
THAT IS THE VERY REASON ONE WOULD APPEAR. THIS IS A WORLD MADE BY MAN.
THERE HAS TO BE A LOGICAL REASON FOR THIS!
I'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS SO-CALLED KILLER GHOST!
I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND OUT SOMEDAY ...!
SO GHOSTS ONLY SHOW UP IN PLACES THAT PEOPLE ARE LOOKING AT!
HOW'S THAT ANY DIFFERENT FROM GHOSTS JUST BEING DELUSIONS THAT ARE THE RESULT OF SOMEONE'S PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE?

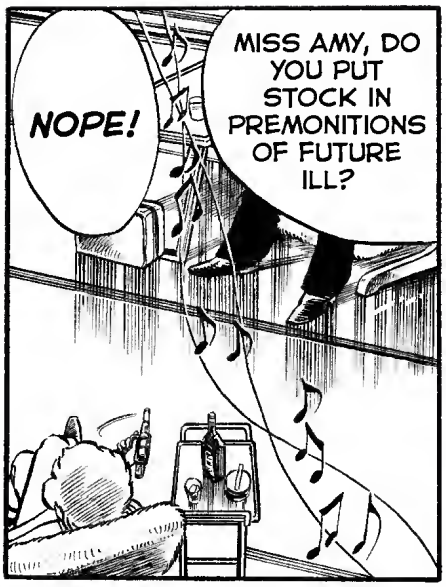

IS THIS THE BRIDGE?

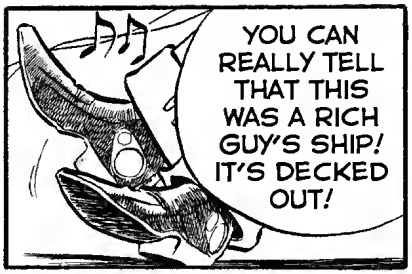

THUD

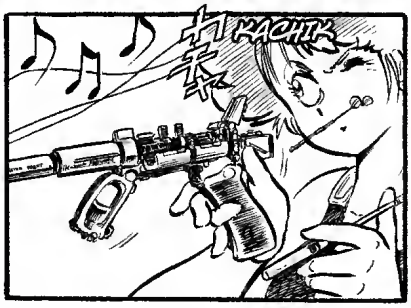

NOW I TRULY FEEL WHAT THE POET RETRO MEANT WHEN HE WROTE OF THE "ETERNAL TWILIGHT"!

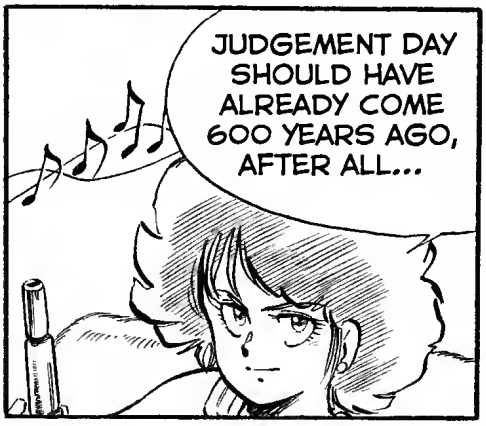

NOT USED TO LIFE IN SPACE, ARE YOU, FATHER?
THAT IS CORRECT.

I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO USE IT, JUST IN CASE. THAT WAY YOU WON'T SUFFOCATE IF SOMETHING HAPPENS!
BIO-LOCKER
PRRING
THIS IS TRENCH. ARE YOU OKAY?
PLEASE CONTACT ME IF SOMETHING HAPPENS!
NO SIGHTINGS!


MISS AMY, DO YOU PUT STOCK IN PREMONITIONS OF FUTURE ILL?
NOPE!


YOU CAN REALLY TELL THAT THIS WAS A RICH GUY'S SHIP! IT'S DECKED OUT!


KAOH!


JUDGEMENT DAY SHOULD HAVE ALREADY COME 600 YEARS AGO, AFTER ALL...

EVEN THAT GOD OF YOURS ISN'T MUCH HELP ONCE YOU'RE 230 LIGHT-YEARS AWAY!

NOT EVERYONE IN THIS UNIVERSE CAN BE AS STRONG AS YOU, MISS AMY!

LET ME MAKE IT UP TO YOU WITH A DRINK...
WATER WILL SUFFICE FOR ME.

SORRY, FATHER! I WENT TOO FAR. I'M JUST FEELING A LITTLE ANNOYED...

DO YOU THINK IT'S A COINCIDENCE THAT THIS SHIP IS NAMED "SHEPHERD"?!

HAH, DON'T LIKE THE NAME? (IT'S AN EXPENSIVE BOTTLE, THOUGH...!)
EVIL SPIRIT
THIS ISN'T THE SAME AS YOUR REGULAR AC ON THE GROUND.
COULD IT BE BROKEN?
THE AIR CONDI-TIONING IS OFF!
IS SOME-THING THE MATTER?
IT HAS MULTIPLE FAIL-SAFES, AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO WORK EVEN IF ALL THE OTHER FUNCTIONS ON A SHIP HAVE STOPPED!
AIR CONDITIONING INSIDE A SPACESHIP IS A VITAL LIFE-SUPPORT SYSTEM.
SO THAT'S IT...!
WHIINE
CLIK
THAT IS, UNLESS SOMEONE TURNED IT OFF...!

DON'T YOU GET IT?! TRENCH DID THIS TO ALL OF THEM!
ONE HELL OF A SHOW THAT OLD MAN SET UP...
THAT'S RIGHT... WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE SOONER?
HE'S A BLOOD-THIRSTY MANIAC!
HE EVEN KILLED THOSE TWO INVESTIGA-TORS...
WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE SOMEHOW ...
WHOOMP
YOU TOO!!
SPACE-SUITS, SPACE-SUITS... SPACE-SUITS!
SPACE-SUITS!

THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT KIND OF TRAPS HAVE BEEN SET UP IN THE HALLS AND AIRLOCKS...
BUT... HOW WAS HE PLANNING ON KILLING US...?
KATT
KATT KATT
SLAM
WAIT A SECOND ...!
BOOSH

WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU DAMNED FAKE PRIEST...!
CLAANG
WHAT...? I WAS ONLY TRYING TO RETRIEVE MY BIBLE FROM MY CASE!
BSSHT
SMOULDER
USE THIS TO CALL TRENCH HERE!
YEAH RIGHT, LACKY!
KRAK SNAP

KRAK!
I'LL BLAST STRAIGHT THROUGH HIS HEAD THE MOMENT HE COMES WADDLING IN HERE!
HEH
HE WANTS TO TRAP ME, I'LL TRAP HIM RIGHT BACK!
THUD
AAAAARGH!!
AIR SEAL
AT. CONFIRM

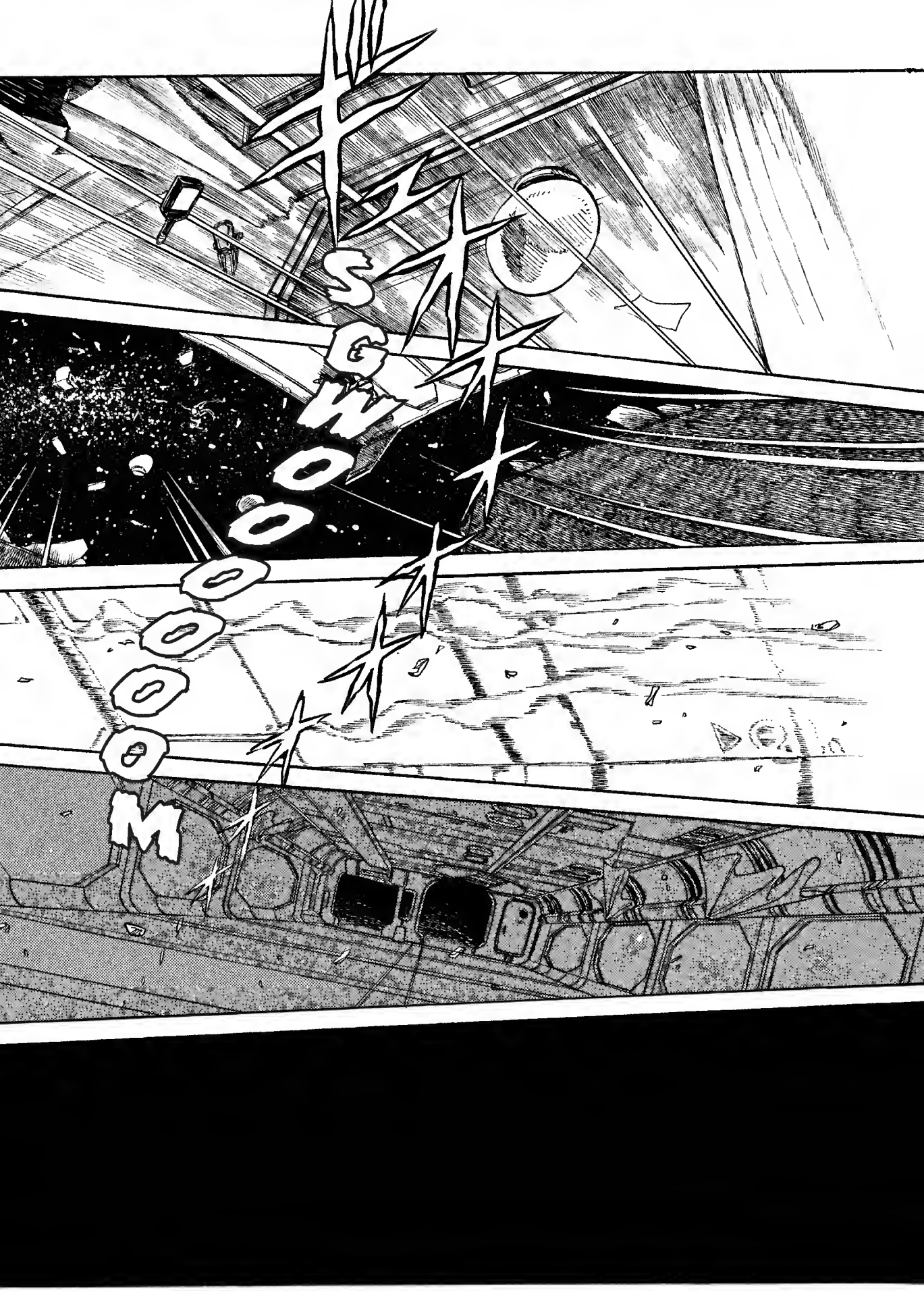
BOOM
AGH
GSSHT
DRAG
THUD
KRASH
THUD
THUD
BOOM
KRUNCH
SLUMP
HAAH
HAAH
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
AAAARGH

!
UNGH...
AMY...? MISS AMY ...?!
WHAT... WHAT HAVE I ...?!
DEAR LORD... I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...!
FLAP
SSHHH

FATHER ...
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, YOU SHALL DECEIVE ME NO LONGER!
MISS AMY! I'VE FIGURED IT OUT... I KNOW WHAT'S CURSED HERE!!
YOU MEAN ...!
THE AIR !!
YES... IT'S SOMETHING THAT'S EVER-CLOSE, BUT INVISIBLE TO THE EYE...
WHAT'S CURSED?!
FWOOM

THUD
DAMN IT!!
BOOOM
FATHER HOLY!!
ROOOAR
TAKE THIS, YOU MONSTER !!
BAKRAK
KRAKK

BOOM

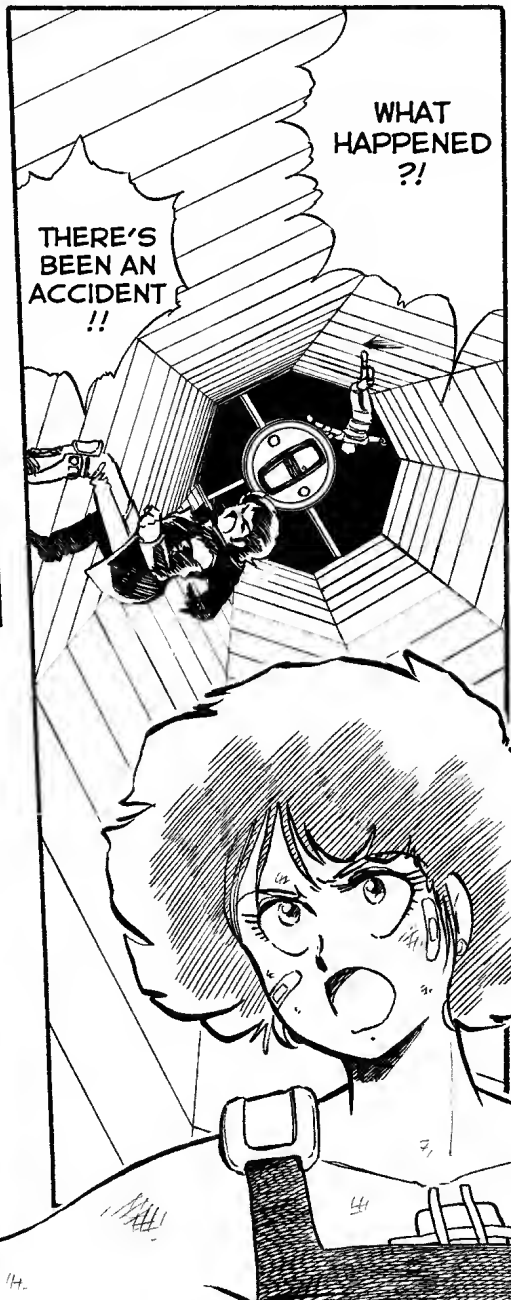

SGWOOOOOOM

THANK GOODNESS, YOU'RE BACK!
HM?
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SO LOUD...
!
..MY!
...
CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?
Aska D-45
YOUR LIFE BOX WAS BROKEN. IF HELP CAME ANY LATER, YOU'D HAVE BEEN BRAIN DEAD!
MISS AMY!!
MISS AMY!!
FATHER ...
WHAT HAPPENED TO FATHER HOLY?!
SO, DID THE GHOST APPEAR AFTER ALL?
OXYGENE
I'M ALIVE ...!
KEEP IT DOWN, I'LL MAKE IT!

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT IT SEEMS HIS LIFE BOX EXPLODED... IT'S NOT A PRETTY SIGHT...
UNFORTU-NATELY...
TAKE THE AIR OUT OF THE SHIP AND CHECK INSIDE THE AIR CONDITIONING!
WHAT ...?! BUT ...
NO... IT'LL BE OKAY!
WHY ONLY ME...?!
WHY...
I GUESS THERE'S NO CHOICE BUT TO TOSS THAT SHIP INTO THE SCRAP STAR... SNIFFLE...
IT CAN'T BE...!
PHYXAN ...
PLINK
OUCH!
PINCH
4

ZZZZMMM
DASH 8G
MAXIMUM
EAGIA
MONI TOR
Maximum Acceleration
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

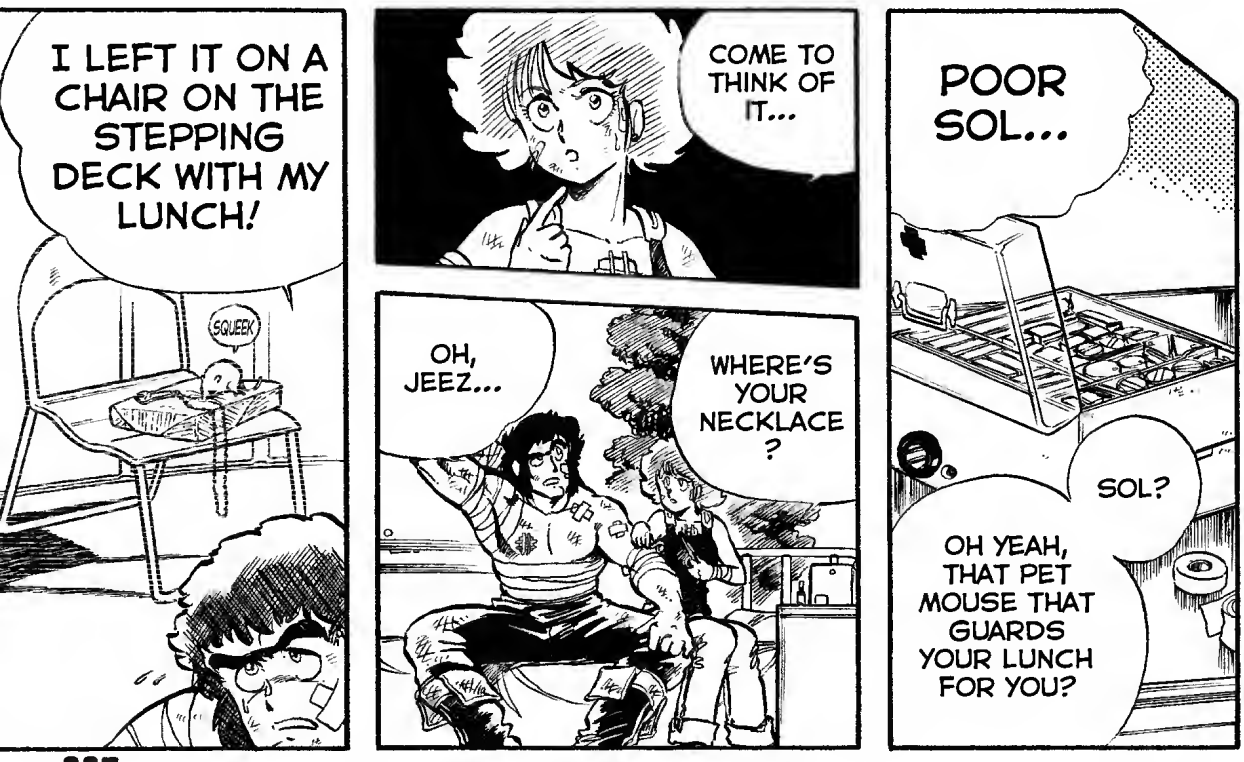
LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION WHERE THEY WERE DOING PIPE WORK ON TREKKIE BLOCK!


WHAT HAPPENED ?!
THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT !!

...XAN...!!
PHY...

PHYXAN WAS ON-SITE HERE WHEN IT HAPPENED, RIGHT?
THE INITIAL EXPLOSION SEEMS TO HAVE COME FROM THE STEPPING DECK NEXT TO THE CONSTRUCTION SITE!
THAT'S ODD.
I SEE ...
NO OTHER INJURIES. PHYXAN IS THE ONLY ONE MISSING!
THE EXPLOSION MUST HAVE BLOWN HIM AWAY!
WE'RE CURRENTLY INVESTI-GATING!
WAS THERE ANYTHING EXPLOSIVE PLACED ON THAT STEPPING DECK?
BOOOM
WAAGH
RATTLE
A SEC-ONDARY EXPLO-SION!!
HMM?!

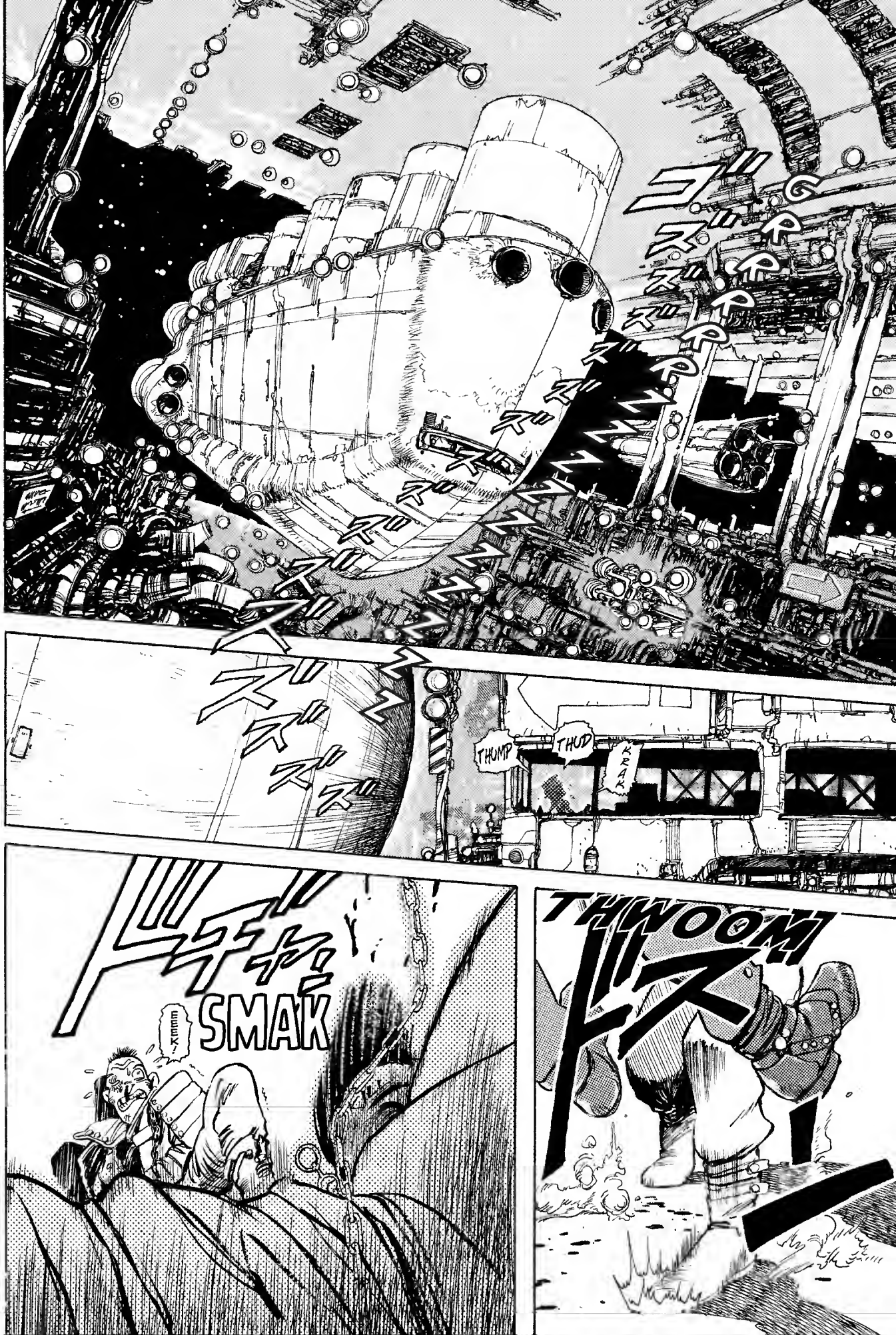
PHYXAN!
CLANG
HEY, BARKEEP. SORRY ABOUT BLOWING UP YOUR WALL.
CLANK
FWOOM
OWWWW!
PHYXAAAN!


I LEFT IT ON A CHAIR ON THE STEPPING DECK WITH MY LUNCH!
SQUEEK
COME TO THINK OF IT...
OH, JEEZ...
WHERE'S YOUR NECKLACE?
POOR SOL...
SOL?
OH YEAH, THAT PET MOUSE THAT GUARDS YOUR LUNCH FOR YOU?

YOUYAKUDEKITA

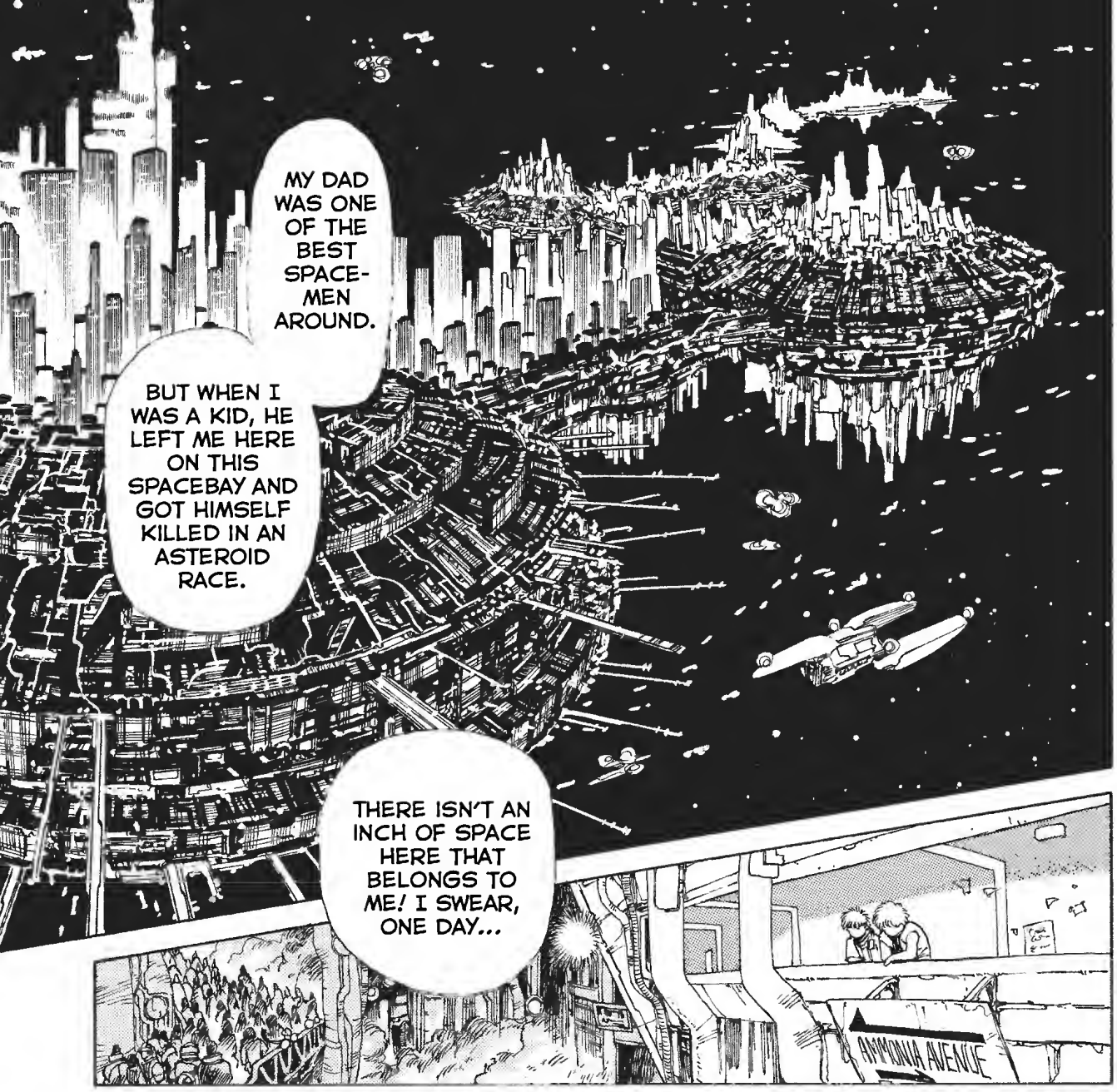
SPACE MAN STORIES vol.4 OSOMATSUSAMADESHITA... 1984. 8/14~9/26

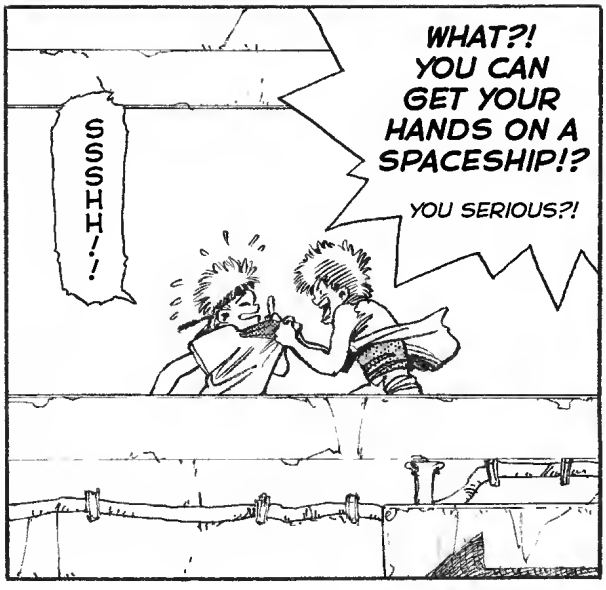
JUNKS:
The Space Rovers - Part 1

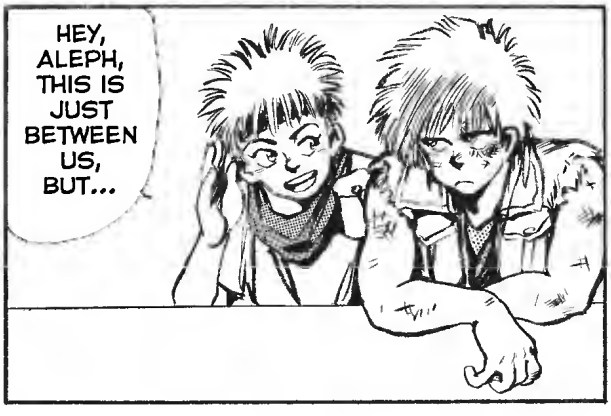

THUMP
THUD
KRAK
EEEK!
SMAK
THWOOM

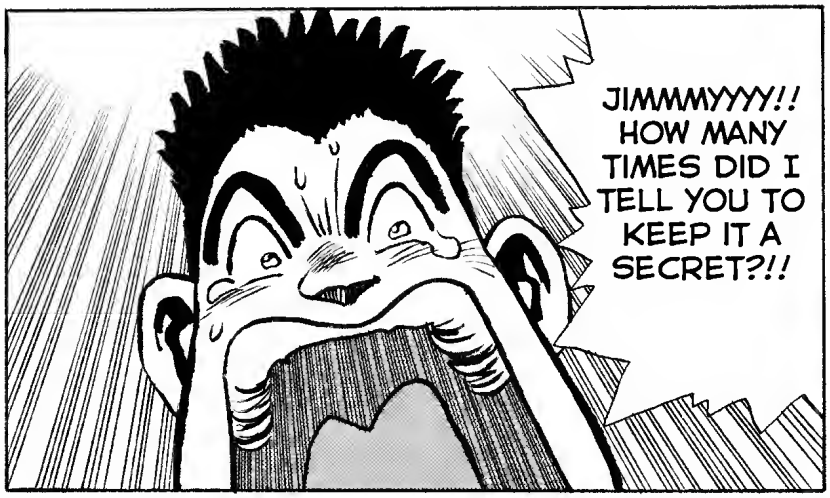
YOU BETTER APOLOGIZE TO MY FRIEND BEFORE YOU LEAVE.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? BRING IT ON!
YOU'RE THAT BIG AND GIVING UP ALREADY!?
I LUV YOU
I... I'M SORRYYY !!
I'LL NEVER CALL YOU A SPACE TRAMP AGAIN!!
KRAK!!
I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
S-SORRY.
RADIO K.A.O.S.

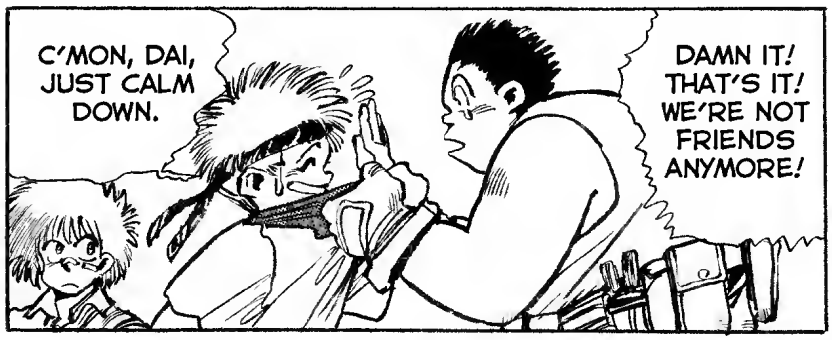
YOU THINK I'LL LET SOME SPOILED LAND-LUBBERS GET THE BETTER OF US?
THAT ... WAS AWE-SOME, ALEPH !!
TOSS
KCHT
7"
GRIP
I'M USED TO IT.
N-NAH... IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME...
ANYWAY, JIMMY! DOESN'T BEING CALLED A SPACE TRAMP MAKE YOU MAD?
I CAN'T STAND IT!!
I HATE STAYING QUIET WHEN EVERYONE AROUND SAYS WHATEVER THE HELL THEY WANT!
WELL, I'M NOT.

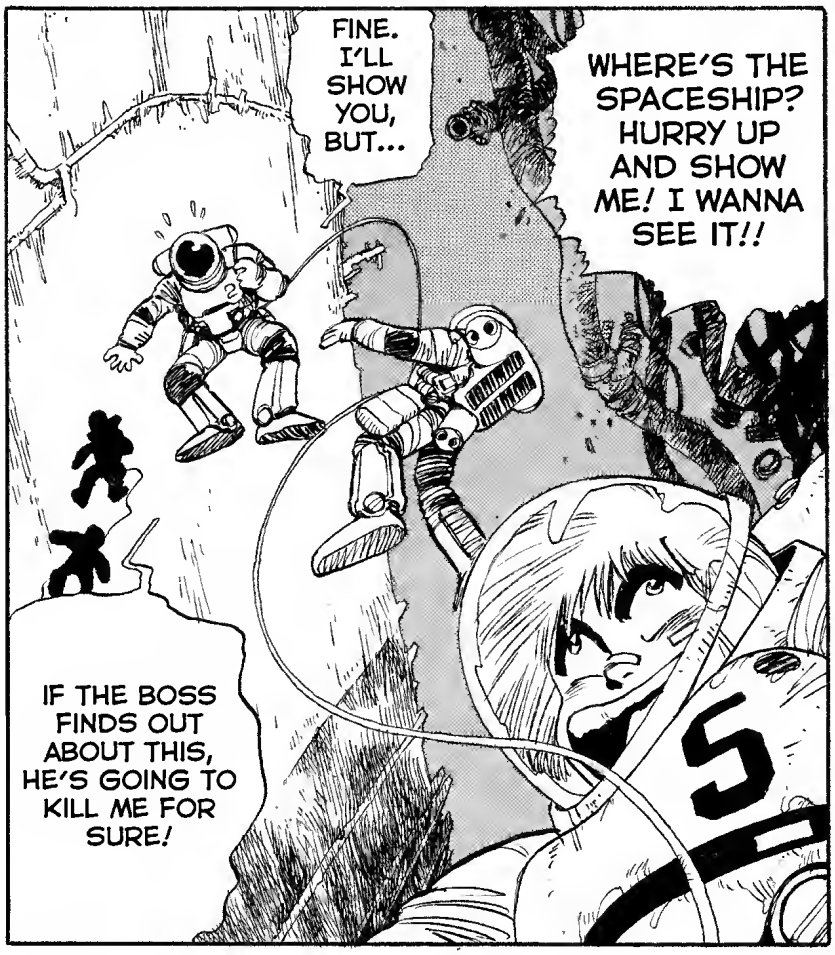

MY DAD WAS ONE OF THE BEST SPACE-MEN AROUND.
BUT WHEN I WAS A KID, HE LEFT ME HERE ON THIS SPACEBAY AND GOT HIMSELF KILLED IN AN ASTEROID RACE.
THERE ISN'T AN INCH OF SPACE HERE THAT BELONGS TO ME! I SWEAR, ONE DAY...
AMMONIA AVENUE


WHAT?! YOU CAN GET YOUR HANDS ON A SPACESHIP!?
YOU SERIOUS?!
SSSHH!!

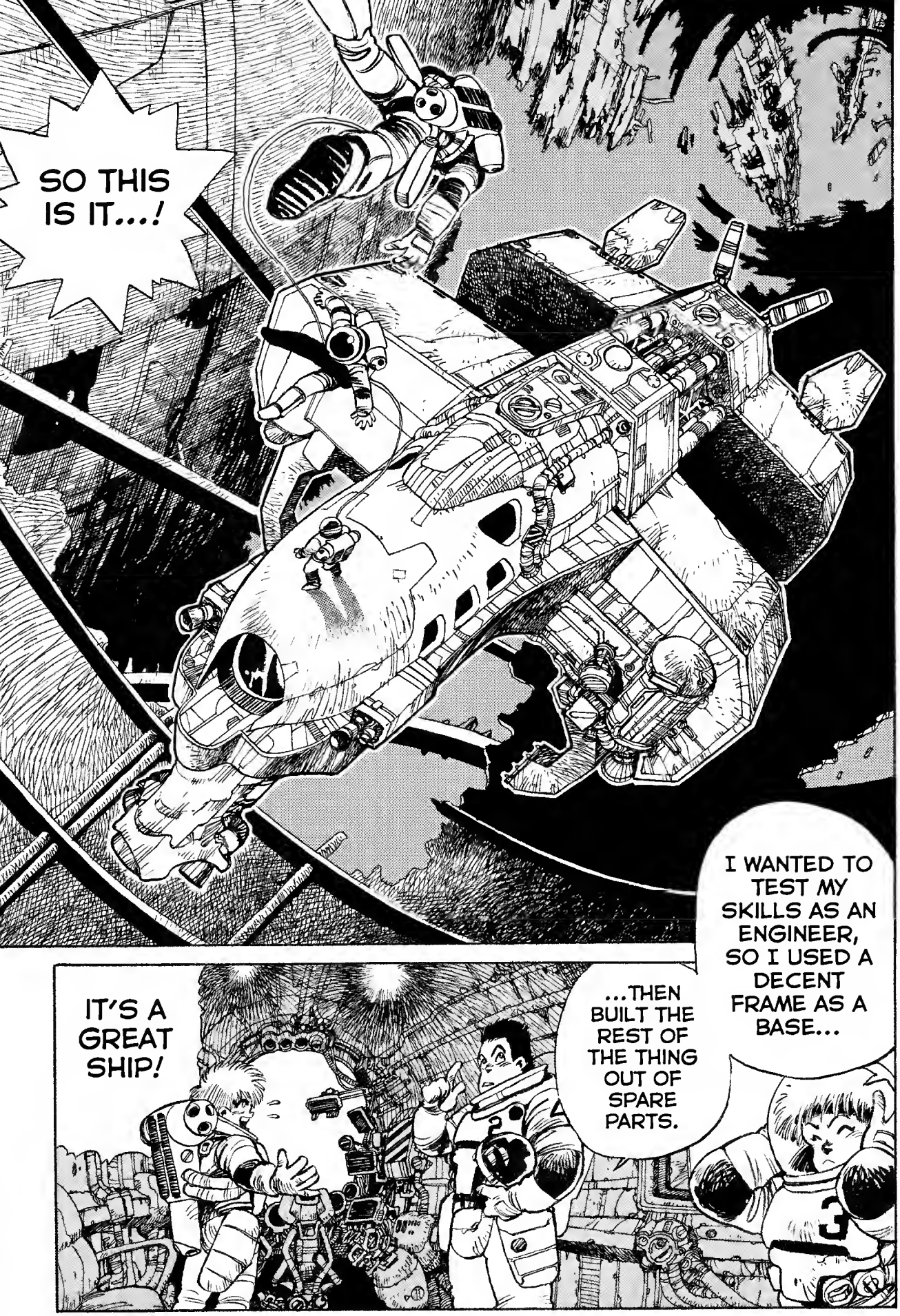

HEY, ALEPH, THIS IS JUST BETWEEN US, BUT...

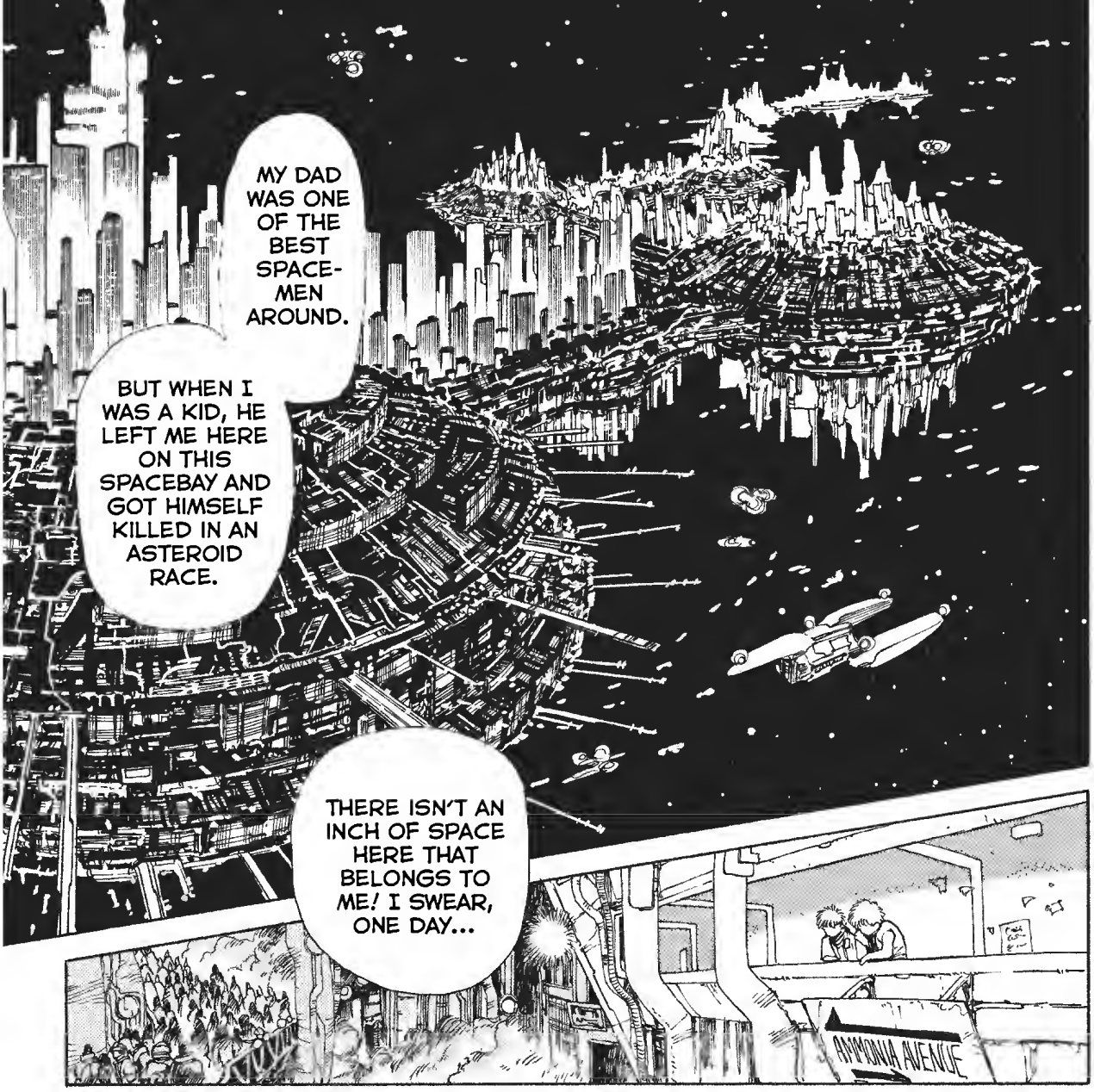

JIMMMYYYY!! HOW MANY TIMES DID I TELL YOU TO KEEP IT A SECRET?!!

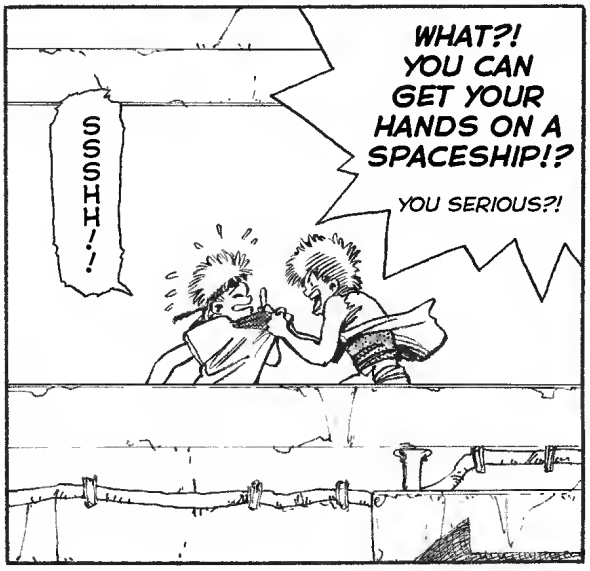

C'MON, DAI, JUST CALM DOWN.
DAMN IT! THAT'S IT! WE'RE NOT FRIENDS ANYMORE!

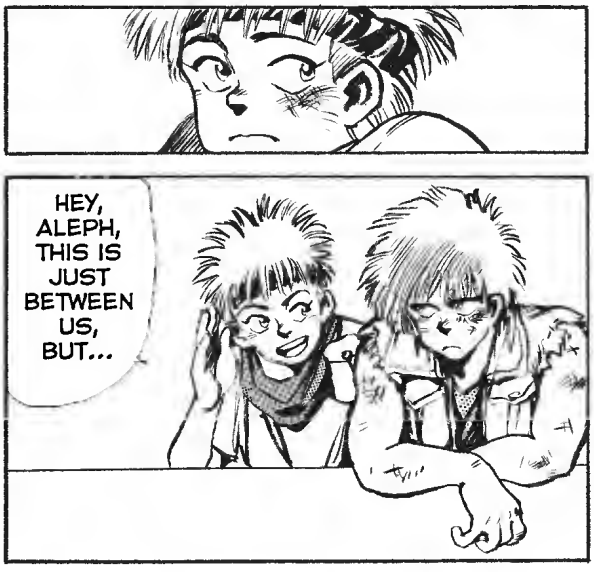

FINE. I'LL SHOW YOU, BUT...
WHERE'S THE SPACESHIP? HURRY UP AND SHOW ME! I WANNA SEE IT!!
IF THE BOSS FINDS OUT ABOUT THIS, HE'S GOING TO KILL ME FOR SURE!

Scrap Chamber
KEEP OUT
GWOOM
GWOOM
GWOOM


SO THIS IS IT...!
I WANTED TO TEST MY SKILLS AS AN ENGINEER, SO I USED A DECENT FRAME AS A BASE...
...THEN BUILT THE REST OF THE THING OUT OF SPARE PARTS.
IT'S A GREAT SHIP!


MY DAD WAS ONE OF THE BEST SPACE-MEN AROUND.
BUT WHEN I WAS A KID, HE LEFT ME HERE ON THIS SPACEBAY AND GOT HIMSELF KILLED IN AN ASTEROID RACE.
THERE ISN'T AN INCH OF SPACE HERE THAT BELONGS TO ME! I SWEAR, ONE DAY...
AMMONIA AVENUE


SSSHH!!
WHAT?! YOU CAN GET YOUR HANDS ON A SPACESHIP!?
YOU SERIOUS?!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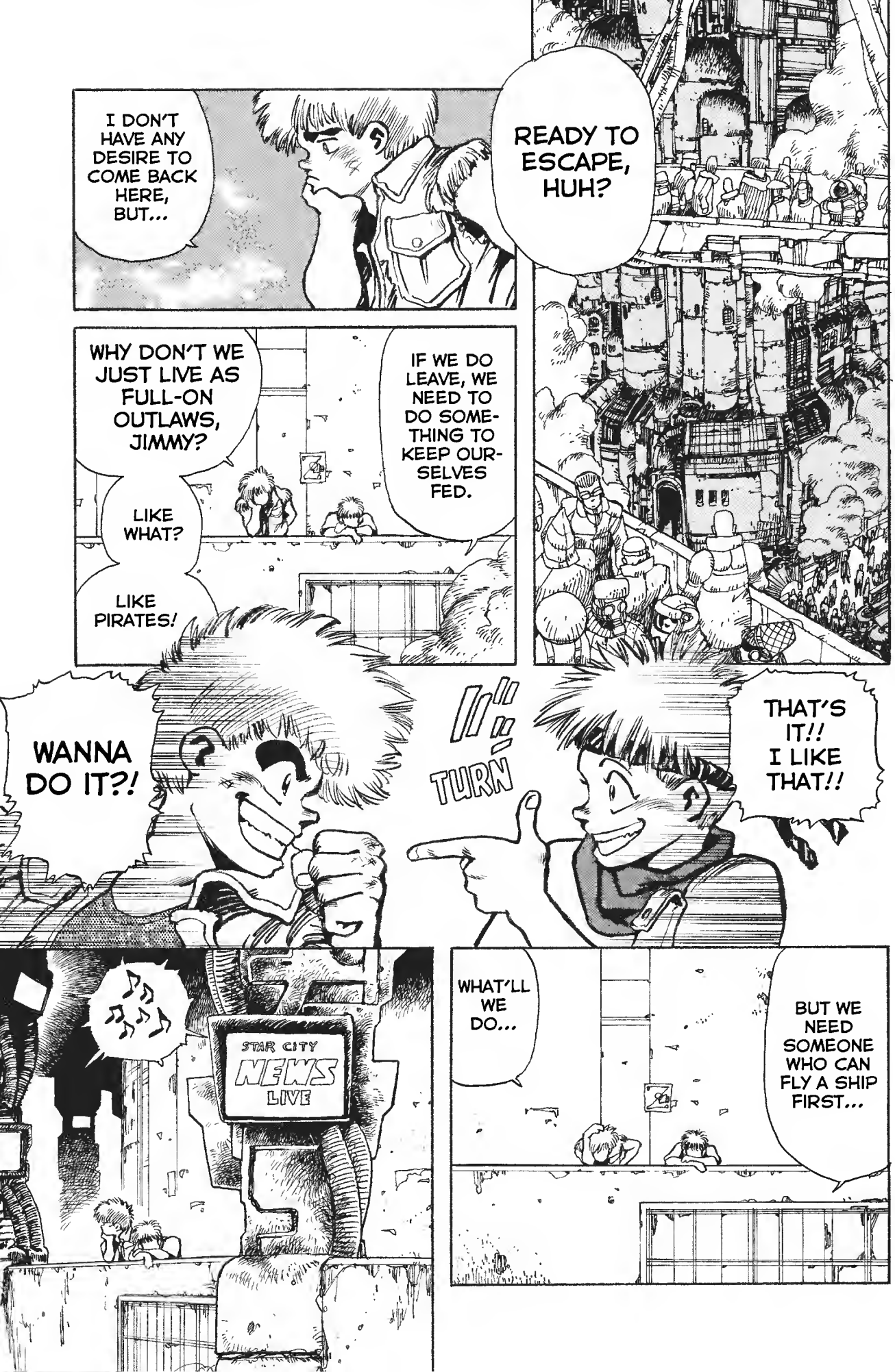
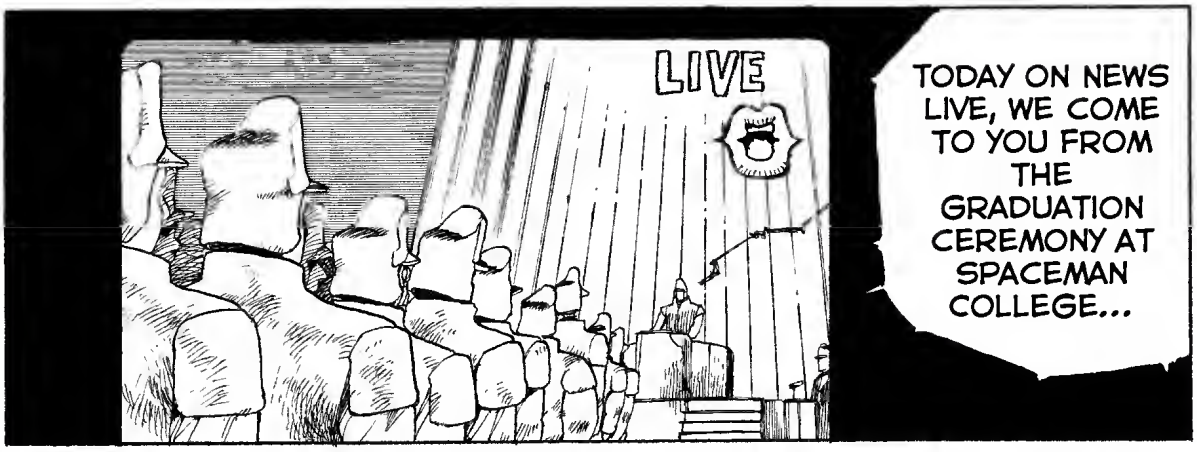
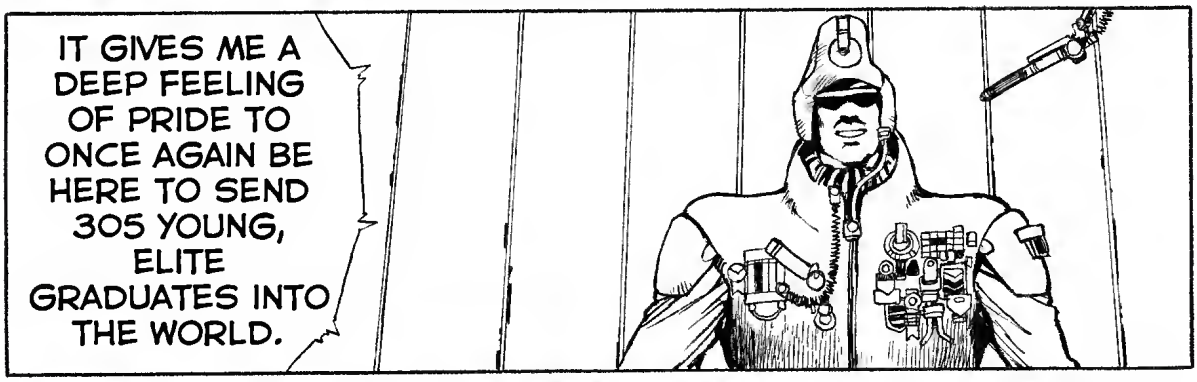
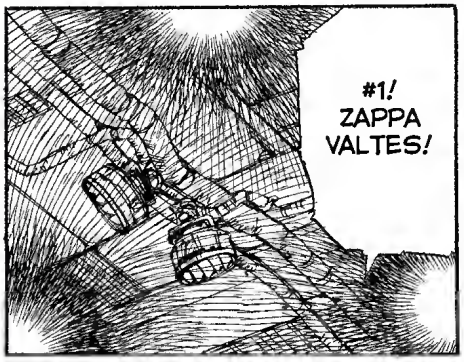
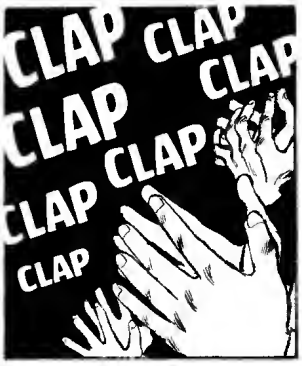
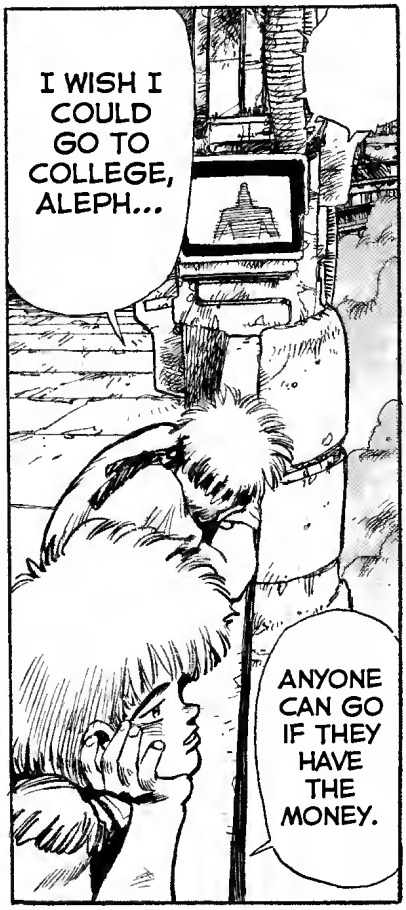

I DON'T HAVE ANY DESIRE TO COME BACK HERE, BUT...
READY TO ESCAPE, HUH?
WHY DON'T WE JUST LIVE AS FULL-ON OUTLAWS, JIMMY?
LIKE WHAT?
LIKE PIRATES!
IF WE DO LEAVE, WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING TO KEEP OURSELVES FED.
WANNA DO IT?!
TURN
THAT'S IT!! I LIKE THAT!!
STAR CITY NEWS LIVE
WHAT'LL WE DO...
BUT WE NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN FLY A SHIP FIRST...


LIVE
TODAY ON NEWS LIVE, WE COME TO YOU FROM THE GRADUATION CEREMONY AT SPACEMAN COLLEGE...


IT GIVES ME A DEEP FEELING OF PRIDE TO ONCE AGAIN BE HERE TO SEND 305 YOUNG, ELITE GRADUATES INTO THE WORLD.


#1! ZAPPA VALTES!


CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

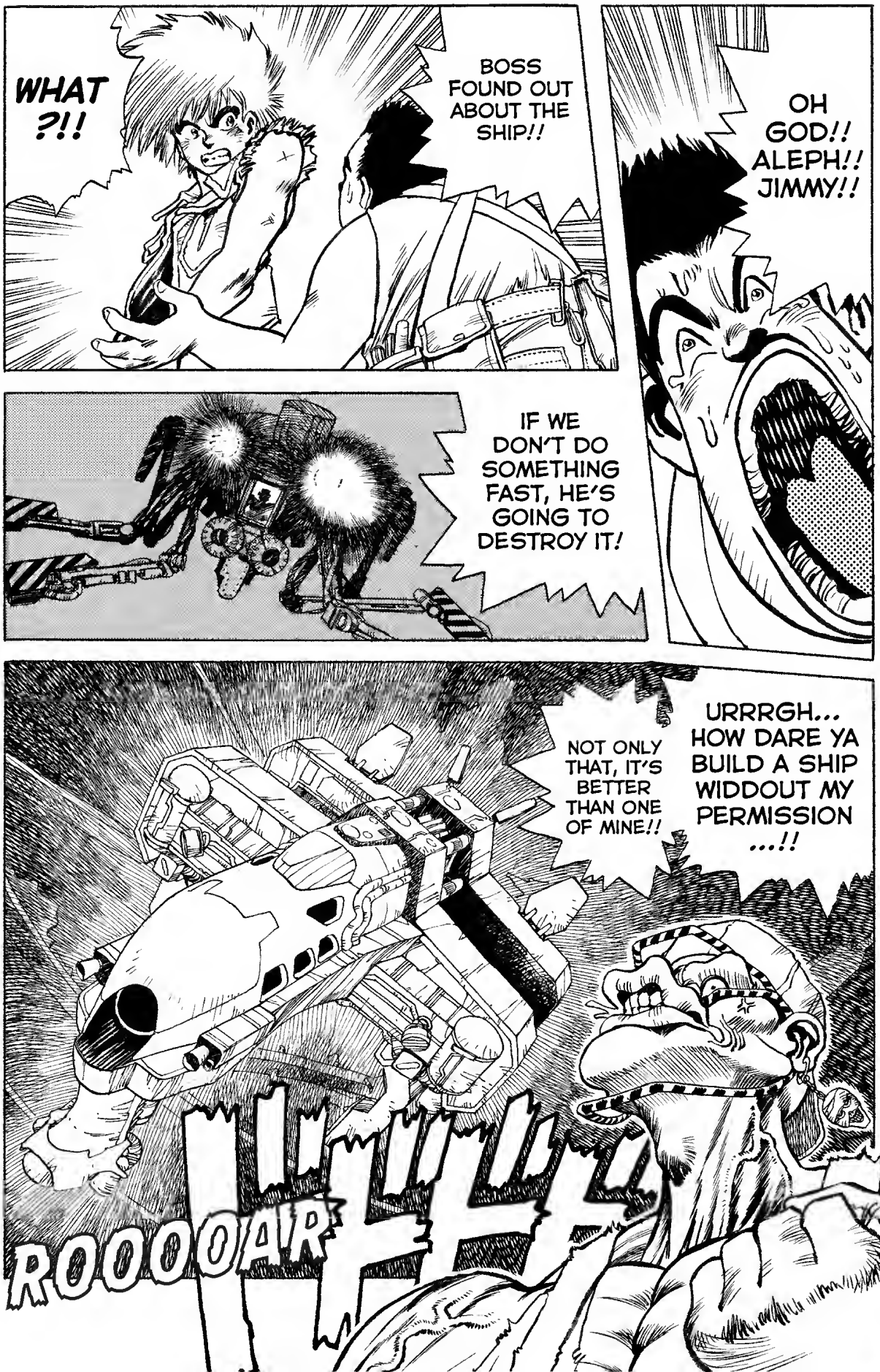

I WISH I COULD GO TO COLLEGE, ALEPH...
ANYONE CAN GO IF THEY HAVE THE MONEY.

KATT

YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT ANYONE WHO DOESN'T COME IN FIRST IS TRASH, RIGHT?
I HAD FAITH IN YOU, SON! I CAN HOLD MY HEAD HIGH TODAY AS THE MAYOR WHILE I WATCH YOU GRADUATE AT THE TOP OF YOUR CLASS !!
CONGRATU-LATIONS!
HEY, ZAPPA!!
GRAB
HOW ABOUT I TELL YOU WHY I ENTERED THIS COLLEGE AND WENT ALONG WITH THE WISHES OF MY FATHER, THE ONE MAN I DESPISE MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THIS WORLD!
MURMUR

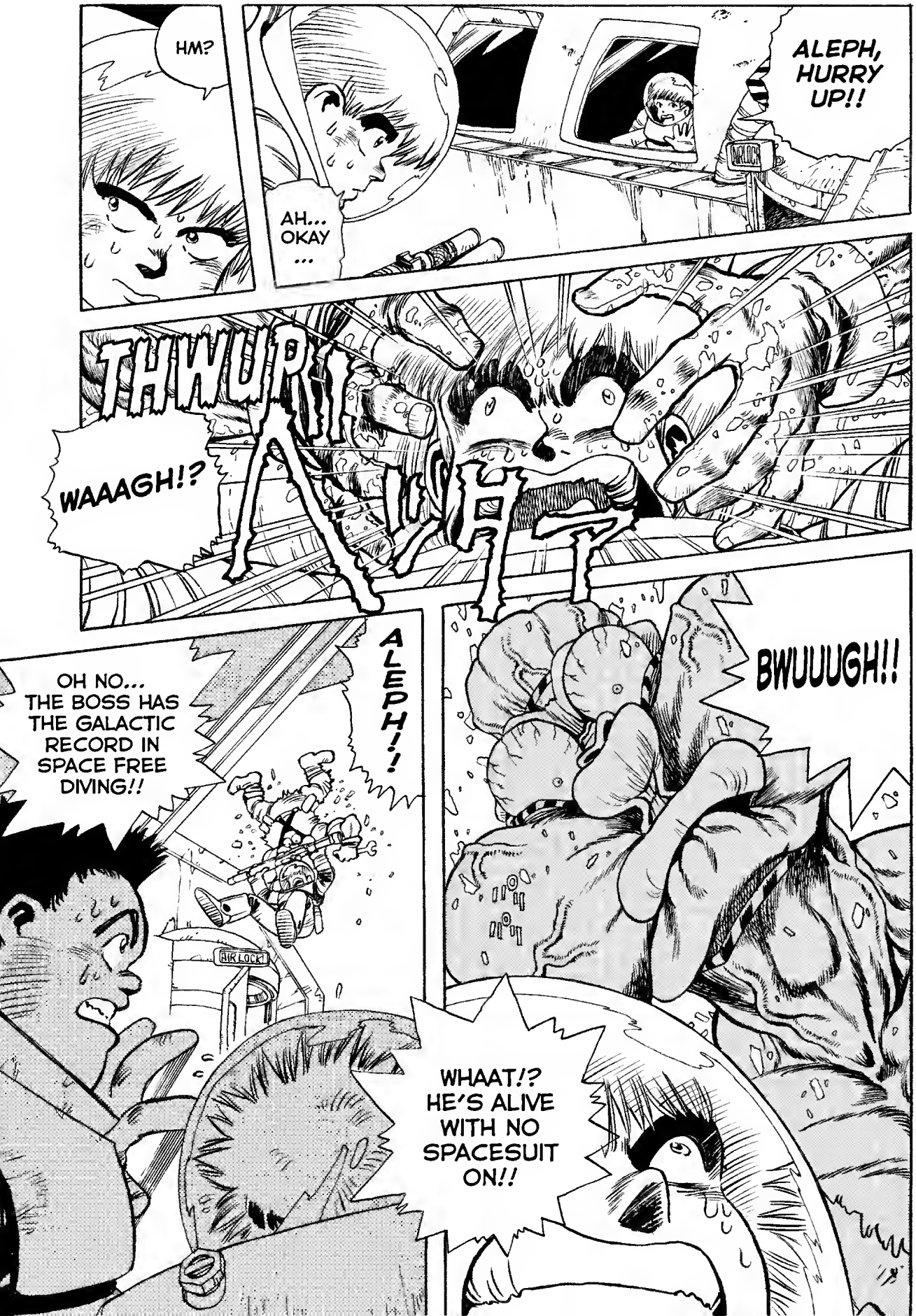
THAT'S WHY I ENTERED SPACEMAN COLLEGE!
I WANTED TO GET THE HIGHEST STATUS POSSIBLE UNDER YOUR STUPID SYSTEM, THEN KICK IT BACK IN YOUR FACE AND DESTROY YOUR REPUTATION!
I DON'T EVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN AS LONG AS I LIVE!!
GET OUT ... GET OUT OF HERE !!
THIS IS MY REVENGE ON YOU FOR CHOOSING YOUR REPUTA-TION OVER MOTHER!
110" POP
THUD
...THAT GUY'S... INCREDIBLE ...
DANG ...
MURMUR
MURMUR

HEH... ARE YOU TWO JOKING? YOU KNOW THAT PIRACY IS A SERIOUS CRIME.
YOU WANT ME TO BECOME A PIRATE?!
ALL WE'RE MISSING IS A PILOT... AND WEAPONS.
WELL, WE ACTUALLY ALREADY HAVE AN ILLEGAL, UNREGISTERED SPACESHIP!
WHAT DO YOU THINK... I'LL JOIN YOU GUYS IF YOU MAKE ME THE LEADER!
IF YOU WANT RIFLES, I'VE GOT ABOUT FIVE...


WHAT ?!!
BOSS FOUND OUT ABOUT THE SHIP!!
OH GOD!! ALEPH!! JIMMY!!
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING FAST, HE'S GOING TO DESTROY IT!
URRRGH... HOW DARE YA BUILD A SHIP WIDDOUT MY PERMISSION ...!!
NOT ONLY THAT, IT'S BETTER THAN ONE OF MINE!!
ROOOOAR

DAIZA-BURO, YOU'RE GETTIN' SCRAP-PED, TOO!
BWOOOSH
GAAAAH !!
AAACK! BOSS, WAIT!!
GACHUNK
TASTE MY ENVY!!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT OLD MAN DOING? HAS HE GONE INSANE?!
AAGH! DAI!!
BTHOOM
KNOCK IT OFF!!

ACK ...
I KILLED HIM...!
BWAGH !
THUOT
EVERYONE GET IN THE SHIP, NOW! WE'RE HIGHTAILING IT OUT OF THIS DOCK BEFORE WE GET FOUND OUT!
I CAN'T STOP CRYING!
YOU OKAY, DAI?!
GUOOMMM
NICE SHOT.
TREMBLE TREMBLE

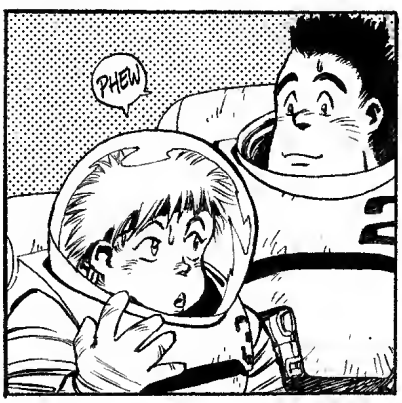

HM?
AH... OKAY ...
ALEPH, HURRY UP!!
AIRLOCK
THWUP!
WAAAGH!?
BWUUUGH!!
ALEPH!!
OH NO... THE BOSS HAS THE GALACTIC RECORD IN SPACE FREE DIVING!!
AIR LOCK
WHAAT!? HE'S ALIVE WITH NO SPACESUIT ON!!

UGH... I'M STARTIN' TO FEEL FAINT...
SSHHH
H... HEY, QUIT STEALING MY AIR!!
FWOOOOP
KMEOW
BOOOOM
THUD

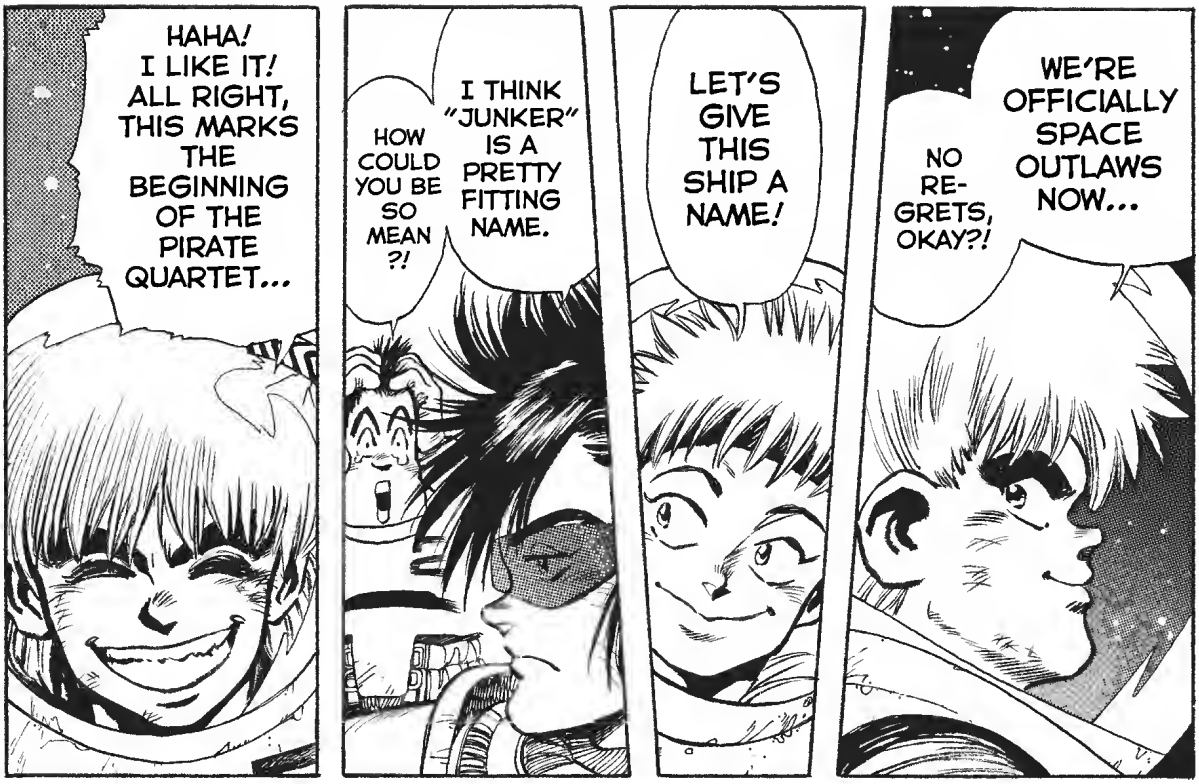
BWOOM
THWUK
GWOOOSH
BANG
SMACK
KRAK
CHIK
STEP
STEP
STEP
LEAN...
BOOM

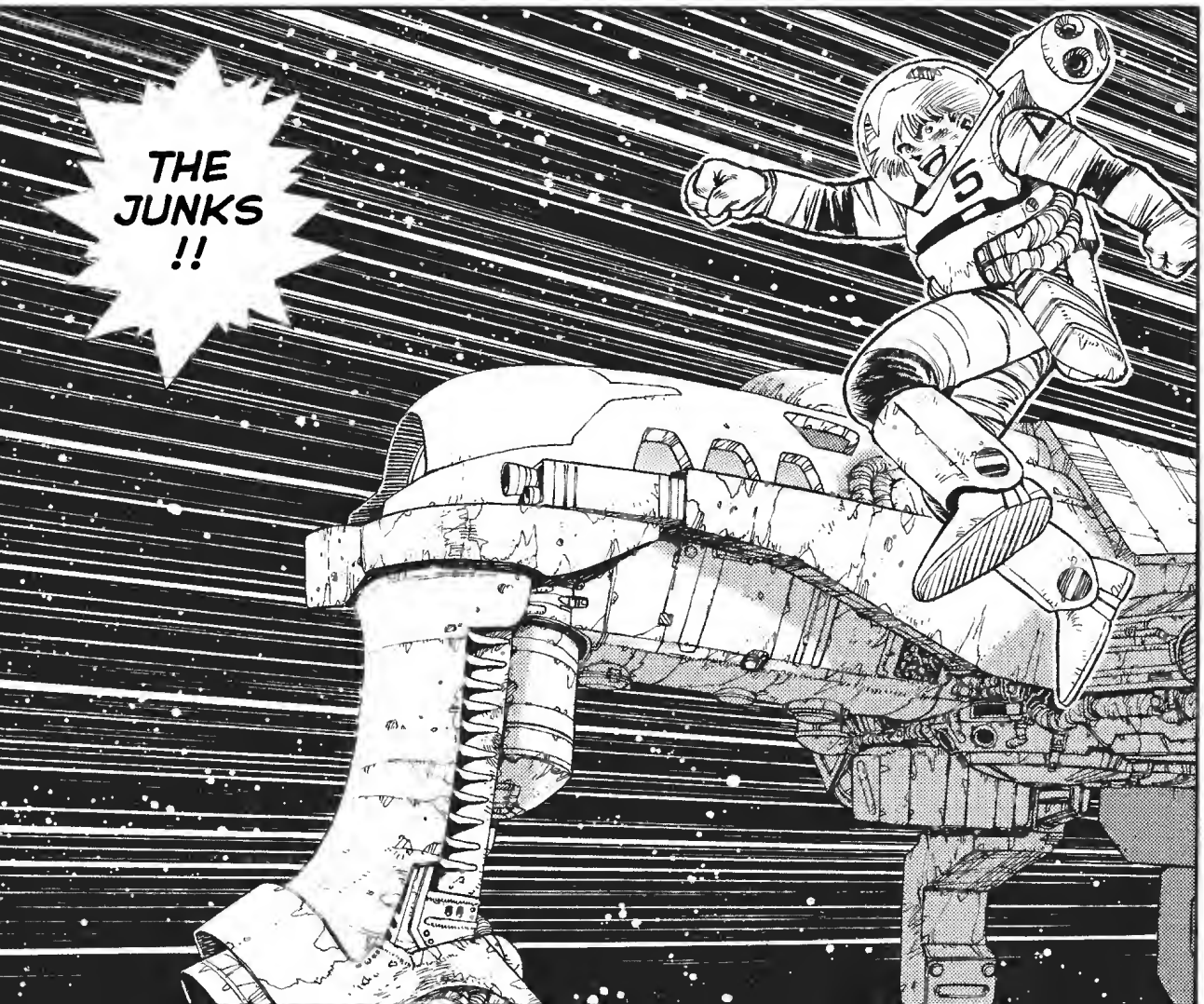
KRAASH
BLAAGH !!

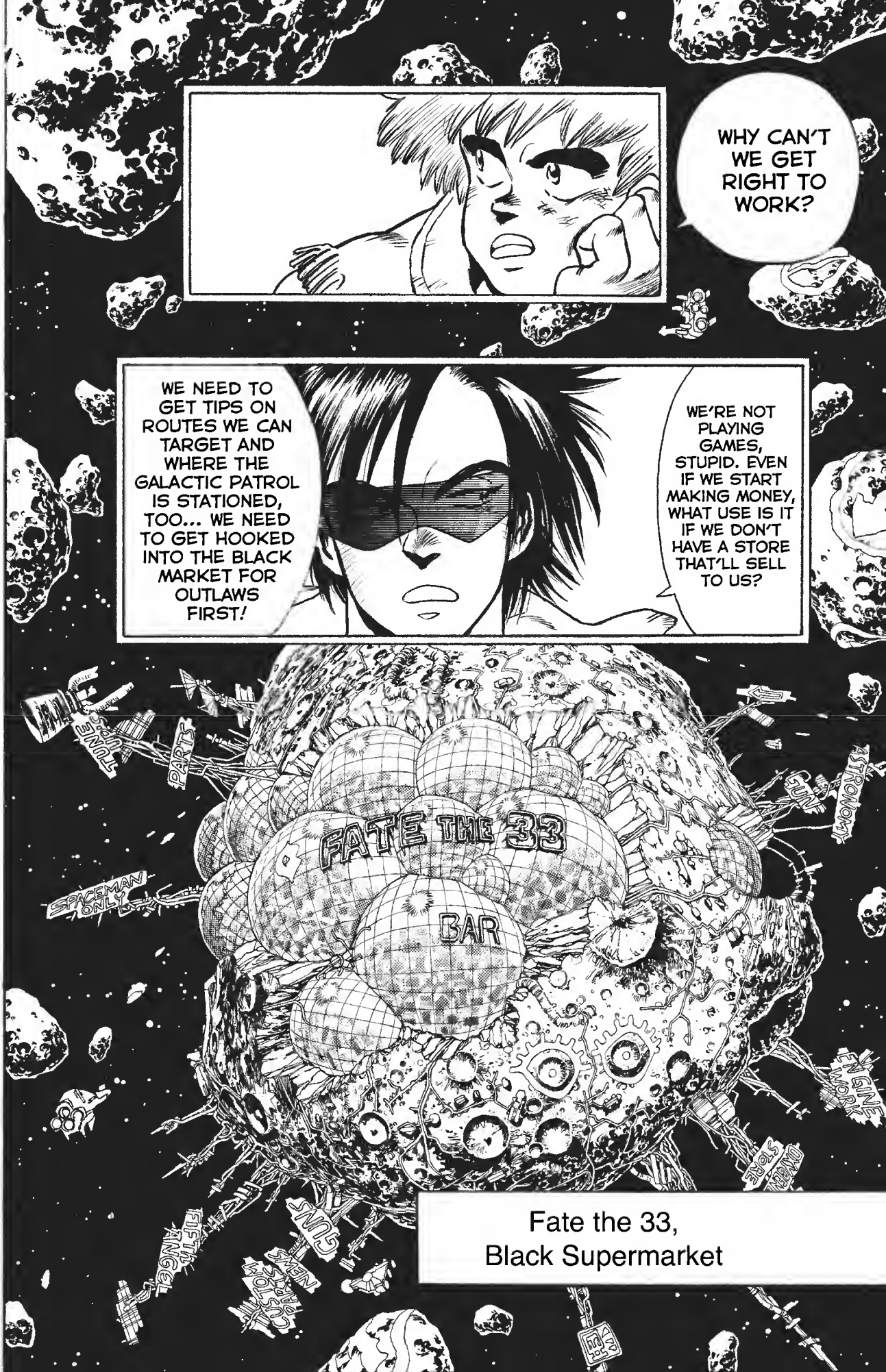
YOU ALIVE, ALEPH?


PHEW

I THINK SO!

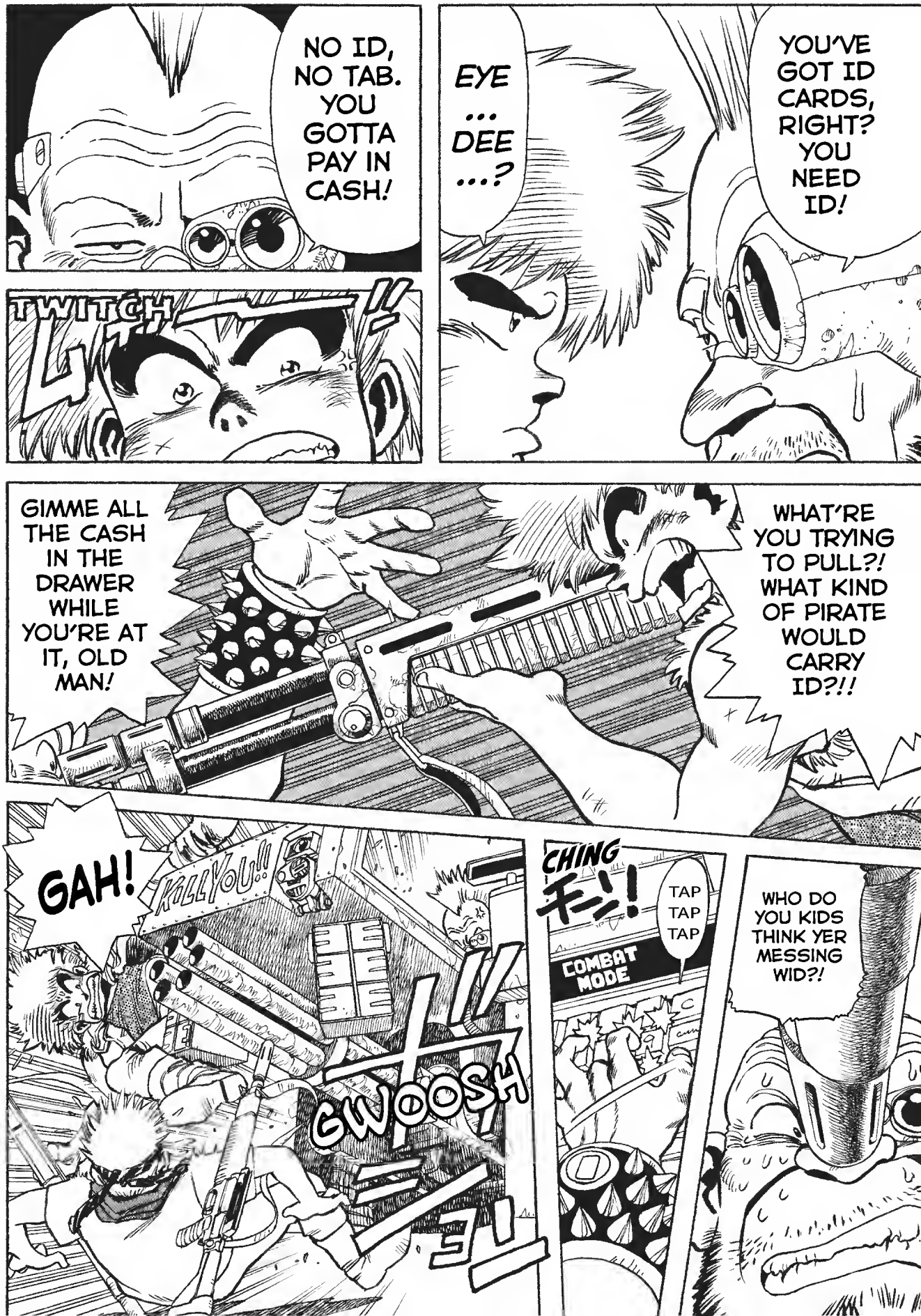

HAHA! I LIKE IT! ALL RIGHT, THIS MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE PIRATE QUARTET...
HOW COULD YOU BE SO MEAN ?!
I THINK "JUNKER" IS A PRETTY FITTING NAME.
LET'S GIVE THIS SHIP A NAME!
NO RE-GRETS, OKAY?!
WE'RE OFFICIALLY SPACE OUTLAWS NOW...


THE JUNKS !!



Fate the 33,
Black Supermarket

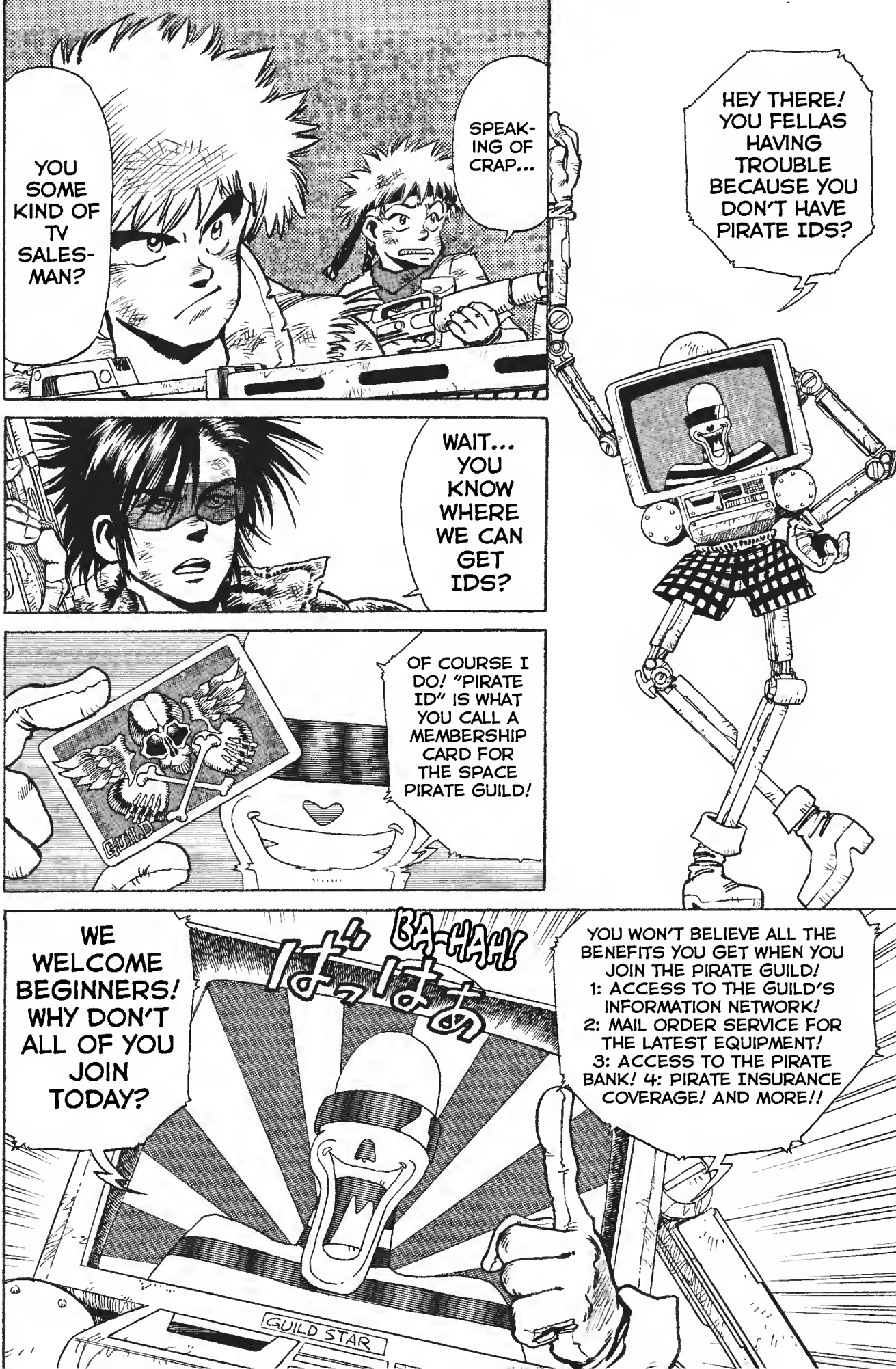
AND A CAN OPENER TOO, OLD MAN!
GUILD MEMBER
CLUNK
No shoplifting!
You steal, you die!
CAN'T SAY I HAVE 'ROUND THESE PARTS.
WE'RE THE JUNKS. EVER HEARD OF US?
YOUSE IS SOME NEW FACES. WHERE YA FROM?
YESSIR.
HEY, PUT THIS ON MY TAB!
HEY, WAIT A SECOND !!
OLD MAN, PUT THIS ON OUR TAB!

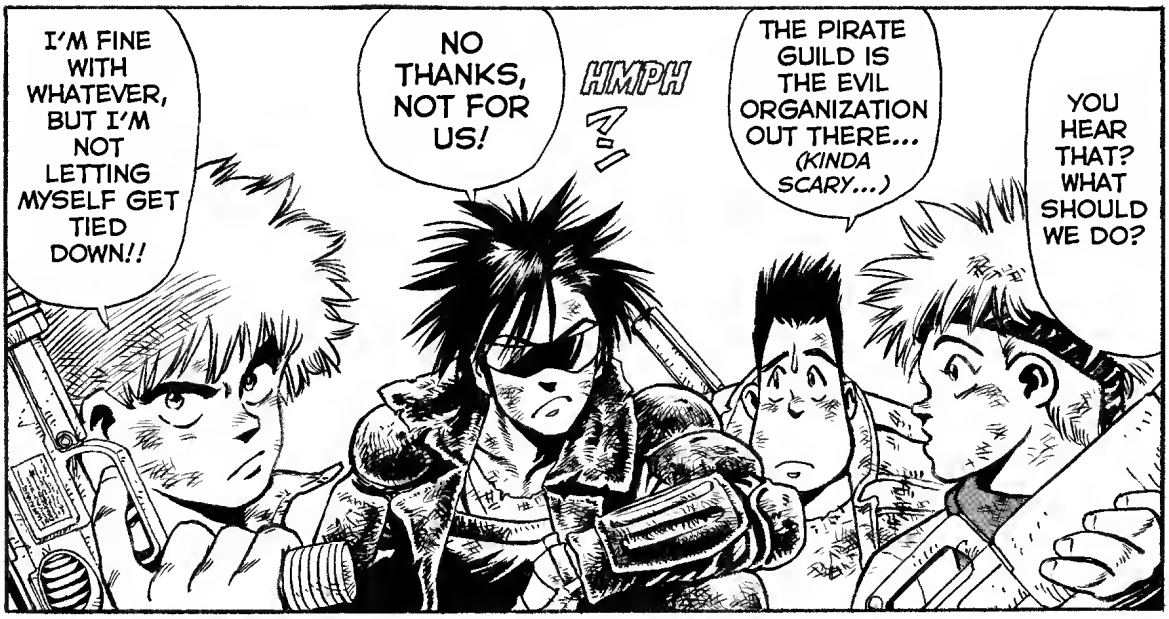

NO ID, NO TAB. YOU GOTTA PAY IN CASH!
YOU'VE GOT ID CARDS, RIGHT? YOU NEED ID!
EYE ... DEE ...?
TWITCH
GIMME ALL THE CASH IN THE DRAWER WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, OLD MAN!
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO PULL?! WHAT KIND OF PIRATE WOULD CARRY ID?!!
GAH!
KILL YOU!!
GWOOSH
CHING チン!
TAP TAP TAP
COMBAT MODE
WHO DO YOU KIDS THINK YER MESSING WID?!

BOOOM
NEWS 3R
HARD WARE
NISHIBO TILING INDUSTRIAL
BEDS 25¥ A DAY
GRAAGH! GET LOST!!
THUDUDUD
KOFF KOFF
SLUMP
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN NOT TO TAKE A MERCHANT WHO DEALS WITH OUTLAWS ALL DAY LIGHTLY.
HAAH... HAAH...
YOU ALWAYS HAD QUICK FINGERS, JIMMY!
SNATCHED IT, HEH HEH.
OH!
ALEPH !

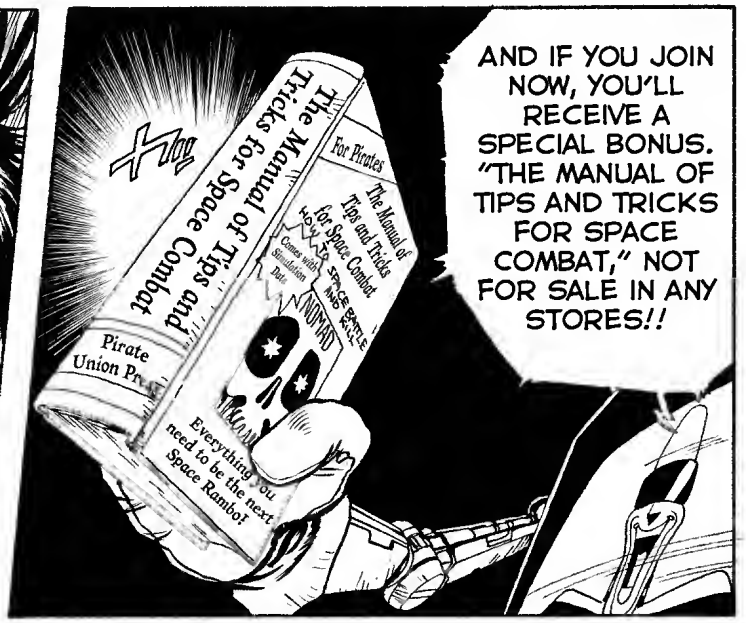
BOOM BRRRM
BOOM
THOOOM
IT'S PROBABLY ZAPPA AND DAIZABURO.
IT'S STARTED BACK UP IN THERE.
BOOOOM
HYAAAOH!
GAAAH!
PUNK !!
BOOM
BOOM
ALEPH ...
SUP?
C'MON, I'VE NEVER HELD A GUN BEFORE!
FIZZLE FIZZLE
CLUNK
WHAT KIND OF IDIOT TRIES TO WEAR A GUN SLING LIKE A BACKPACK?!

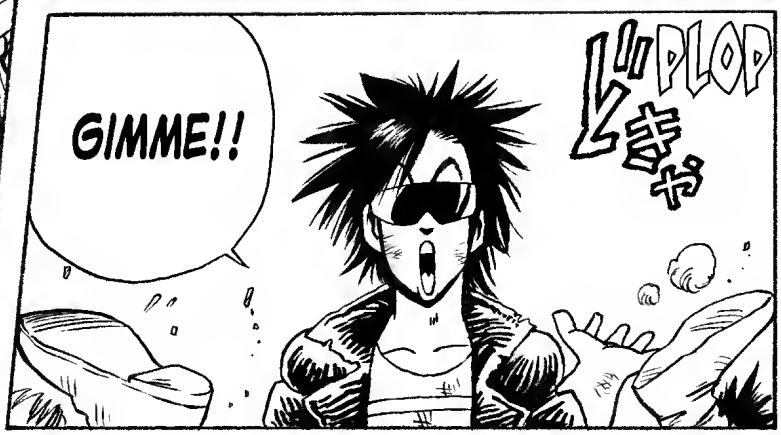
SO IT'S ALL ABOUT ID...
I'M GOING TO SETTLE THINGS WITH THAT GEEZER ONE DAY...!!
THINGS FELL APART AND HE STARTED FIRING AS SOON AS HE FOUND OUT WE DON'T HAVE ID!
YOU CAN'T BUY INSIDE INFO ON CREDIT, YOU DUMBASS!
DID YOU GUYS TRY TO BUY ON CREDIT, TOO?
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!
SO WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GET LOCKED UP ONCE?
MAYBE THE G PATROL MAKES THEM, LIKE HOW THEY MAKE WANTED POSTERS?
HOW'S THIS EVEN WORK? WHERE DOES SOMEONE GET A PIRATE ID CARD?
JUST SHUT IT!
YOU'VE GOT A DIRTY MOUTH FOR SOMEONE FROM HIGH SOCIETY! YOU'RE WORSE THAN US!
WHAT'S INEXPLI-CABLE ABOUT CRAP!?
I MEAN, LITERALLY, "WHAT AN INEXPLI-CABLE WORLD WE LIVE IN."
HM?
H... HEY!
A BUNCH OF CRAP? WHAT'S THAT EVEN MEAN?!
PFFT. EITHER WAY, A WORLD WHERE EVEN PIRATES NEED ID? WHAT A BUNCH OF CRAP!

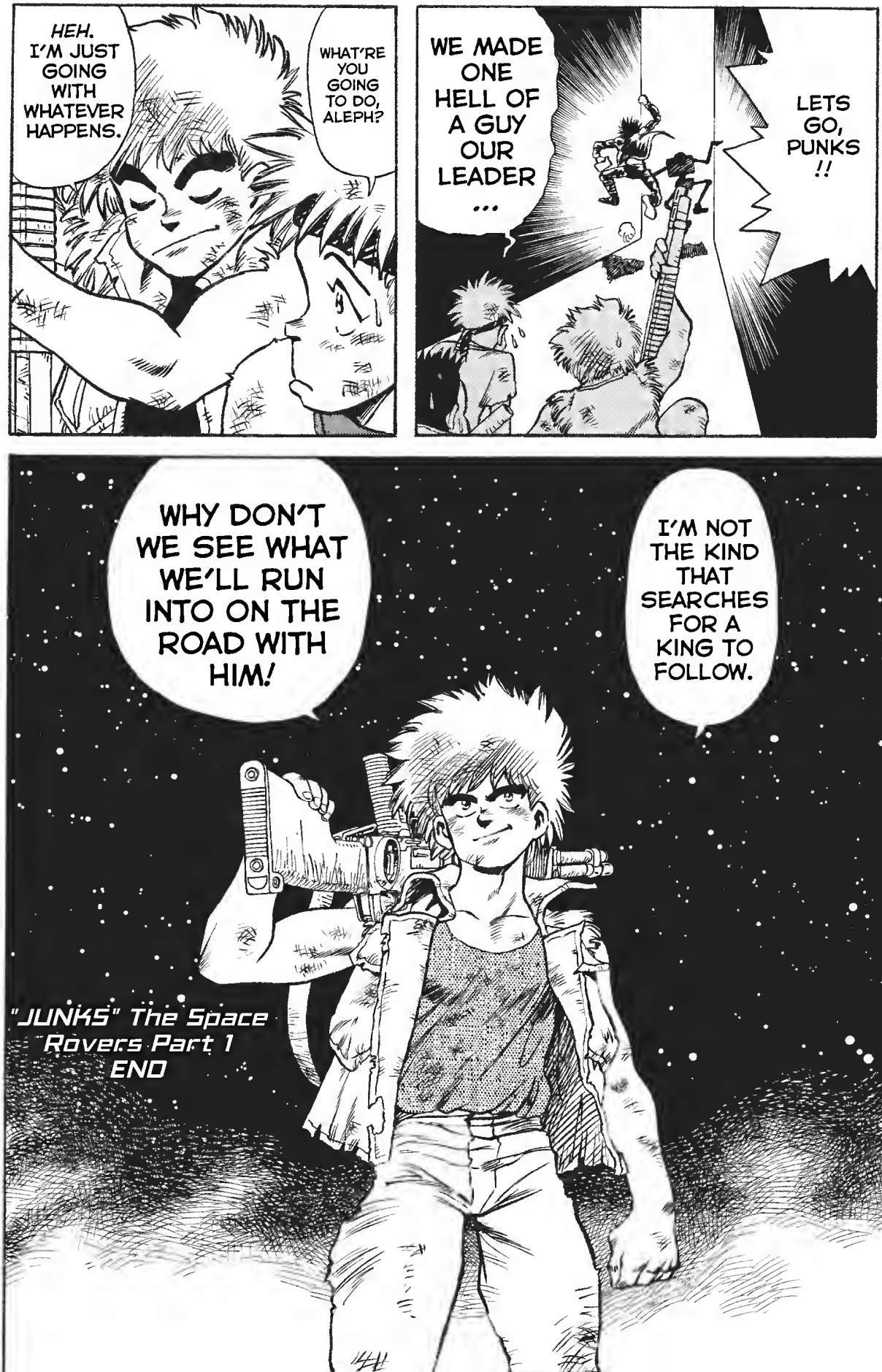

YOU SOME KIND OF TV SALES-MAN?
SPEAK-ING OF CRAP...
HEY THERE! YOU FELLAS HAVING TROUBLE BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE PIRATE IDS?
WAIT... YOU KNOW WHERE WE CAN GET IDS?
GUILD
OF COURSE I DO! "PIRATE ID" IS WHAT YOU CALL A MEMBERSHIP CARD FOR THE SPACE PIRATE GUILD!
BA-CHAK!
WE WELCOME BEGINNERS! WHY DON'T ALL OF YOU JOIN TODAY?
YOU WON'T BELIEVE ALL THE BENEFITS YOU GET WHEN YOU JOIN THE PIRATE GUILD! 1: ACCESS TO THE GUILD'S INFORMATION NETWORK! 2: MAIL ORDER SERVICE FOR THE LATEST EQUIPMENT! 3: ACCESS TO THE PIRATE BANK! 4: PIRATE INSURANCE COVERAGE! AND MORE!!
GUILD STAR


I'M FINE WITH WHATEVER, BUT I'M NOT LETTING MYSELF GET TIED DOWN!!
NO THANKS, NOT FOR US!
HMPH
THE PIRATE GUILD IS THE EVIL ORGANIZATION OUT THERE... (KINDA SCARY...)
YOU HEAR THAT? WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

YEAH, LIFE IS ALL ABOUT EXPERIENCE !!
Hazardous Material (Rated X)
ARE YOU TRYING TO TAKE LESSONS ON HOW TO BE COOL FROM A BOOK!?


AND IF YOU JOIN NOW, YOU'LL RECEIVE A SPECIAL BONUS. "THE MANUAL OF TIPS AND TRICKS FOR SPACE COMBAT," NOT FOR SALE IN ANY STORES!!
The Manual of Tricks for Space Combat
For Pirates
The Manual of Tips and Tricks for Space Combat
Pirate Union Pr
Everything you need to be the next Space Rambo!


GIMME!!
PLOP

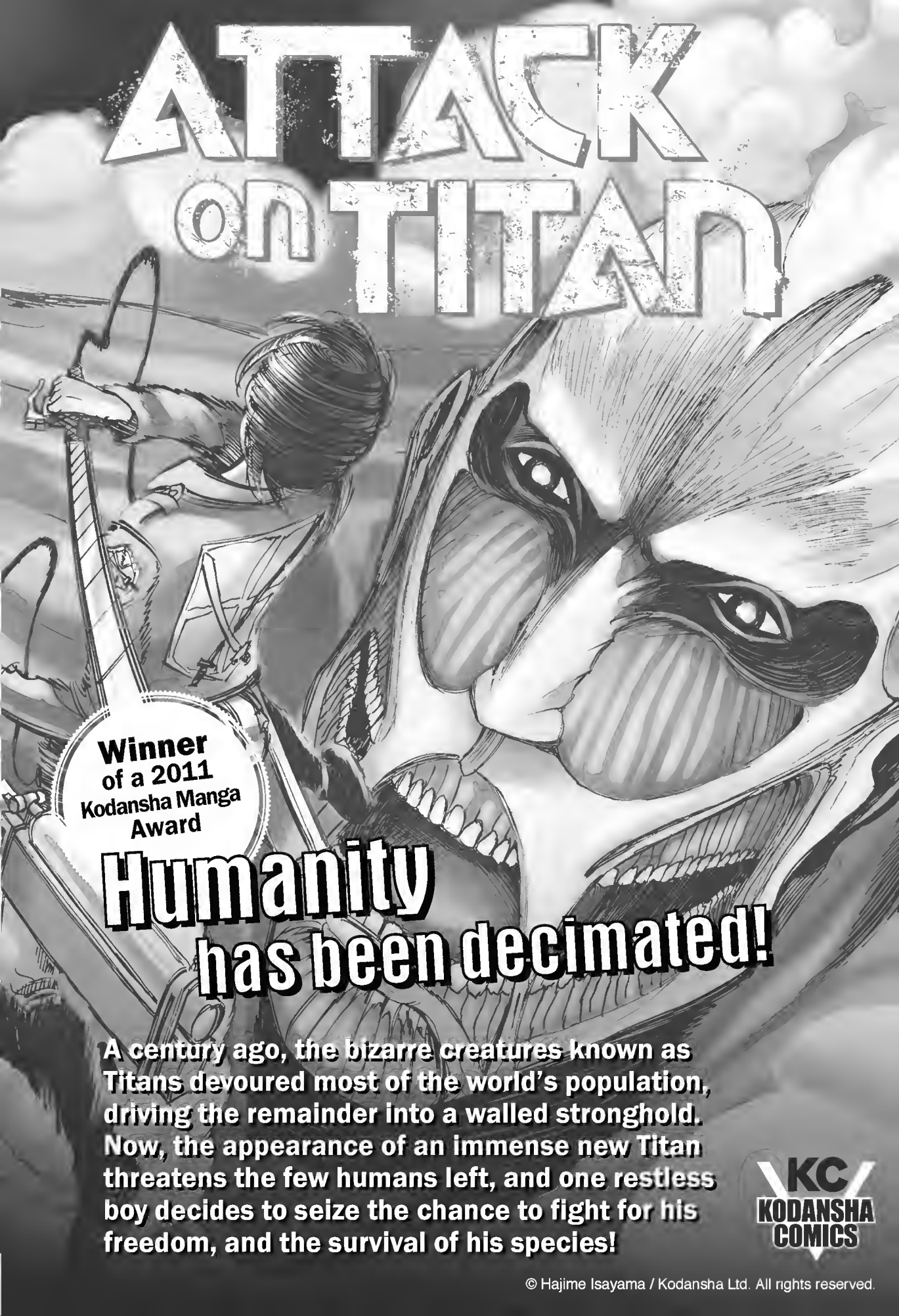

HEH. I'M JUST GOING WITH WHATEVER HAPPENS.
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO, ALEPH?
WE MADE ONE HELL OF A GUY OUR LEADER ...
LETS GO, PUNKS !!
WHY DON'T WE SEE WHAT WE'LL RUN INTO ON THE ROAD WITH HIM!
I'M NOT THE KIND THAT SEARCHES FOR A KING TO FOLLOW.
"JUNKS" The Space Rovers Part 1 END

"Space Oddity" &
"Junks: The Space Rovers, Part 1"
Translation Notes

I Luv You, page 641

In the original Japanese, the tattoo on the back of this punk's head has been written in phoneticized Chinese characters (***kanji***), which is typical of young Japanese delinquents (***yankii***), as well as Japanese motorcycle gangs (***bosouzoku***). Yankii typically are young men and women who have bleached their hair blond, wear trashy clothes, and have a punk-like attitude. They sometimes are part of or end up joining motorcycle gangs that spend their time riding extremely loud motorcycles throughout their territories. Bosozoku are also known for wearing special uniforms called ***tokkou-fuku***, or military-style special-attack uniforms. These uniforms are often emblazoned with various slogans in phoneticized Chinese characters.

ATTACK ON TITAN



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Lettering: Bobby Timony
Editing: Ben Applegate

SORRY. THIS IS THE *END* OF THE BOOK.

This Japanese manga is presented in its original right-to-left format.

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Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left, exactly the *opposite* of how American books are read. It's easy once you get the hang of it: Just go to the other end of the book, and read each page—and each panel—from the right side to the left side, starting at the top right. Now you're reading manga as it was meant to be!